

[Taken from the St. Catharines Chapter's *The Halo*, Bill Hauck editor.]

COTS 2006

By Erick Albrecht, St. Catharines Chapter president

WOW! What a weekend! This is the greatest COTS weekend I've had the pleasure to attend. The food was good, the sessions and classes were very informative and the show was outstanding.

We were given more information than we could cover in such a short period of time, but the speakers and faculty were inspirational. As I write this report, I am still on "Cloud 9." We were given handouts which I have yet to digest, as well as some information we can pass on to teachers.

I can't help but rave about the show that was put on for us at the *Orillia Opera House*. I have to admit that the *MegaCity Chorus* is good and that the quartets that we saw are no slouches either (*Play It Again!*, *Mirage*, *Fusion*, *Silver Threads*, etc.).

But, the *North Metro Sweet Adelines Chorus* blew everybody away. There were no less than 80 of them on the risers and they did a package of numbers from "Les Miserables."

With the choreography and emotion they put into their performance, you couldn't help but be overwhelmed. They had a couple of featured singers and one that was with them was about 12-years-old. Man! And I thought the *Toronto Northern Lights* was great.

Anyway, **Bud Phelan**, **Bill Bradbury**, **Art Fallis** and I represented our chapter. We wish to thank all of you for giving us the opportunity to be there. If you would like to hear more about the weekend, please approach anyone of us and we will bend your ear.

Thanks. ✻



Photo—Don McCormick

The Authentics

Lead: **John Mallett** Tenor: **Stephen Picyk**

Bass: **Rob Lamont** Baritone: **Lee Sperry**

performing at the
COTS / Top Gun show
in Orillia in January, 2006. ✻

Raising the bar even higher

By Chuck Alexander, COTS / Top Gun Show Producer

It's hard to believe that it was only three years ago when I approached the *Lake Country Harmony* (HI) in Orillia, the *Barrie Huronia Soundwaves* (SAI) from Barrie and my own chapter, the *Barrie County Chordsmen* (BHS), if they would be interested in performing along with the Ontario quartets who qualified for the *Top Gun* coaching program that year on the stage of the Orillia Opera House.

There was a combined purpose for this show. It would provide those attending COTS an opportunity of having some entertainment on Saturday night while also helping the district financially by defraying the costs of both COTS and Top Gun by selling tickets to the general public.

The first show was a resounding success but the bar was raised even higher the following year when *Toronto Northern Lights* offered to be the guest chorus and *Power Play* happened to be the Top Gun coaches.

The performance levels of all of the quartets and the chorus was such that the show had four separate standing ovations and who will ever forget the finale with *Power Play* and TNL combining to sing "Circle of Life" (which you can relive as it is featured on TNL's most recent CD).

Immediately following the show, I was asked "What are you going to do next year?" "How are you ever going to beat that production?"

Well, for those in attendance this past January, I did it thanks to **June Dale** and the *North Metro Chorus* along with the *MegaCity Chorus*, our three senior midwinter convention representative, *Play It Again!*, *Sound Association*, *Silver Threads* and Ontario Champions, *The Authentics*, *Mirage* (with **Don Slamka** stepping in for the ailing **Dale Locke**) as well as *Fusion*.

When I had a moment to address the COTS attendees at dinner that Saturday night, I promised them that they would see a show like no other as they were not aware that North Metro was going to perform their whole *Les Miserable* production number in full costume. Several weeks prior to the show, I had the pleasure of going to their rehearsal and working with their technical advisor, **Cynthia Feltrin**, to learn about all of the special equipment (sound, lighting, smoke) they needed for this number. I can tell you that it was an honour working with this group and I wish them well as they seek their fourth gold medal.

As those in attendance know, this event now gets covered by both print and TV media. We were even featured this year by having an "entertainment review" compiled by a local reporter.

So what's going to take place next year? I guess you'll just have to wait and see but if you come to COTS, you'll be guaranteed a ticket. ✻

