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many tools to help them be successful in teaching their students how to perform our style.

However, when he got into stuff like harmonic progressions, chord structures, and things like besotted ninths, subdominant diminished fifths built on scale degrees and so on, he kind of lost the guys. We let him know it. I have to admit that it was fun to be able to watch the teachers. They were really engaged with the material and took copious notes. Despite the joking around that we all did, Steve did a masterful job of teaching the approximately 50 teachers who attended.

After the class we chatted with teachers and made contacts for future outreach. John Kirby had provided handout material and TNL also had a flyer for the teachers. The Barbershoppers certainly destroyed the old myth of barbershop singing is just four pickled guys crooning “Sweet Adeline” under a lamp post. We have so much to give.

Lunch provided the spontaneous chance to show off more of the fun to be had with our music. The food area was a buzz of people coming and going. Being good Barbershoppers and seeing an opportunity, TNL chose to abuse the rule of “don’t sing to an unappreciative audience.”

That was just about the most fun of the whole day. People gathered close and personal, grinning from ear to ear with the joy of the music. They wanted more and more. Surely this is one of the huge gifts of barbershop a capella music. You can take it anywhere.

Reflections on the experience.

- ⊗ 1. Music educators need to hear more about our music because they need it in their schools.
- ⊗ 2. There is a lot of interest in choirs and attracting the guys to the choirs.
- ⊗ 3. I was impressed with the level of the technical detail that the teachers seemed to need. This says to me, do not try to talk music detail with the teachers unless you too have a music degree.
- ⊗ 4. Barbershop music can provide a lot of great learning opportunities for students — from theory, through vocal technique, to ensemble performing.
- ⊗ 5. For the first impression, especially at the High School level, send only our best performers.
- ⊗ 6. Music educators need male role models to show their male students the fun of singing.

Thanks to **John Kirby**, **Chuck Alexander** et. al. for laying the groundwork for this fabulous event. Thanks to **Dr. Gage Averill** for helping to promote our style of folk music. Thanks to **Steve Armstrong** for his leadership and teaching gifts. Thanks to the **Ontario District** for supporting years of initiatives by our *Youth In Harmony* men. Thanks to all the *guys in TNL* for giving of their Saturday.



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Photo—Waldo Redekop

The Kingston Town Crier, **Chris Whyman**,
The World Champion Town Crier in 2004
(see *Trillium* issue 58-3, July - September, 2004)
and a Barbershopper with the *Kingston Townsmen Chorus*,
the host chapter for the fall convention held in Kingston. ✪