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convention bid for 2013 when the International will return to Toronto for its convention, the 50th anniversary of our last Toronto International Convention.

2. On behalf of his chapters and the district, Rob launched, in April, the *Barbershop Harmony Degree* program for Ontario Barbershoppers, with the first 131 degrees being awarded.

Seaforth Chapter

1. Continued our charitable efforts in a town of less than 3,000 residents which is the smallest town in the Ontario District and maybe the whole Society with emphasis on community hospital services locally, raising over \$5,000 this past year.

2. Successfully hosted the Western Division Barbershop Christmas Show by hosting the barbecue for the participants from Seaforth, London, Sarnia, St. Thomas and Mount Forest; staging over 100 performers at the show on November 26, 2006.

Simcoe Chapter

1. Celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a ladies night parade of quartets in August, a charter night dinner in September featuring *Chameleon* and then featuring *FRED* on our annual show.

2. Continued our very high member growth cycle which not only brought in new men but filled our meetings with enthusiasm and fun.

Strathroy Chapter

1. We happily received a twenty-nine thousand Trillium Foundation grant to purchase new uniforms and audio equipment.

2. We participated in several Western Division shows and activities during the past year.

Toronto Chapter

1. Our visit to Germany in March of 2006 featured several outstanding singing opportunities including a combined performance with *Ladies First* of "Alabama Bound" which brought the house down, completing a wonderful round as Canadian ambassadors and a most memorable barbershop experience.

2. Secured a medal again at the Indianapolis International convention. ♣



Submitted photo

First-place winner, *Strathroy Chapter's Vocal Federation*,
John Gough director. ♣

Strathroy Chapter hosts Western Division Novice Contest

By Bill Robertson

The twenty-eighth annual Western Division Novice competition was held Saturday, February 24, 2007, at the Strathroy District Collegiate Institute with the *Strathroy Chapter* of the *Barbershop Harmony Society* hosting the contest.

Adjudication was completed by the quartet, *Skedaddle*, from the *Simcoe Chapter*.

Strathroy's own *Vocal Federation* was awarded first place in the chorus category. Director **John Gough**, to the cheers of the entire chorus, accepted the trophy.

Recycled Parts from the *London Chapter*, was awarded first place in the VLQ (very large quartet) category.

The first-place senior quartet contest was won by a mixed members group called *The Interchapter Four*. The members are, tenor **Ron Madill** from *St. Thomas Chapter*, lead **Ken Dodge** from the *London Chapter*, bass **Frank Knoll** from the *Strathroy Chapter* and baritone **Woody Hustler**, also from the *London Chapter*.

The quartet *Sterling Silver*, with tenor **Bob Fennell**, lead **Bill Robertson**, bass **Les Campbell** and baritone **Ken Vanderheyden**, from the *Strathroy Chapter*, received the trophy for their first place showing in the regular novice quartet division. ♣



Submitted photo

First-place novice quartet winner, *Sterling Silver*, with tenor **Bob Fennell**, lead **Bill Robertson**, bass **Les Campbell** and baritone **Ken Vanderheyden**, from the *Strathroy Chapter*. ♣