

Quartet to quit performing

By Ed Crisp

The popular barbershop quartet *Afternoon Delight* has decided to hang up the pitchpipe effective with this announcement. The senior quartet has been entertaining audiences mainly in retirement homes and nursing homes in southern Ontario for the past five years. They had previously agreed amongst themselves to quit public performance should old age or infirmity start to affect their level of performance.

The quartet had its origins in a larger group of retired singers (as many as sixteen) also called *Afternoon Delight*, that had entertained in the London area for eight years previously. When the larger group decided to disband, four individuals associated with the group decided to continue the enterprise as a quartet. They are: Lead **Len Reeks**, Tenor **Ken McPhaden**, Baritone **Alec Burns** and Bass **Ed Crisp**.



The quartet started singing using the repertoire inherited from the original group. But Ken had been the non-singing music director of that group and consequently had to learn all the tenor parts from scratch.

Afternoon Delight quartet soon started to acquire its own repertoire. The smaller unit (sometimes dubbed “Square Root of *Afternoon Delight*”) learned new material at a fast rate and performances were much easier to arrange with the reduced logistics involved. The quartet became more comfortable with one another and started to tackle more challenging material, such as “*Rigoletto Quartet*,” a parody of the operatic tour-de-force whose music was remarkably true to the original penned by “**Joe Green**” (**Guiseppe Verdi**).

Each member of the quartet had responsibilities beyond his own singing part. Alec was the Business Manager and Ed the emcee/storyteller. Len co-ordinated the sing along, a popular feature of any *Afternoon Delight* program for which Ken played the piano with great versatility.

Although no further public performance is contemplated, the quartet anticipates occasions when they might get together to sing for their own enjoyment. Meanwhile, Ken will continue to sing as a stalwart member of the tenor section of the *London Men of Accord*, the chorus of the *London Chapter* of the *Barbershop Harmony Society*. Ed will continue to sing as he creates learning tapes for groups like *Afternoon Delight* across the world. ❁

ONTARIO DISTRICT'S

21st ANNUAL

“PEP RALLY”

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19th, 2007

CAPITOL BANQUET CENTRE

6435 DIXIE ROAD MISSISSAUGA

BE THERE ! ❁

Trophies being recalled

By Gerry Selkirk, Awards Chairman

Thanks to all the men who brought the awards back to me at the convention. It makes my job much easier. I will be recalling trophy's to update and repair as necessary. I will not be calling more than two per year to keep expenses down, so be prepared when the call comes.

Thanks to the men who received Barbershopper of Renown badges for understanding the mistake that was made with their badges having the wrong year printed on them. New ones are being made and will be shipped to them by mail. ❁

[Taken from an editorial titled “*Music*” in the January, 2003, *East Aurora, New York Chapter's Harmony News*, Dick Westlund editor.]

Music is a link between man and the divine. It imbues him with a sense of the eternal. It can lift his soul beyond itself, to sense grandeur and beauty of life, and the reality of love. ❁