

In Memoriam

BILL MC ILROY

By Bob Burrell (with files from obit notice)

I deeply regret to announce the death of **William Nelson (Bill) McIlroy**, in his 73rd year, on Saturday May 19, 2007, after a long illness. Bill was a longtime member of the *Suburbanaires* and the *Oshawa Horseless Carriagmen* and will be sorely missed from the lead section of the chorus.

Beloved husband of May and much loved father of Ann and Jim. Our thoughts and best wishes go to Bill's family and friends as he joins the Chorus Eternal. Bill's funeral was private, followed by cremation. ❁

ERNIE NEWELL

1923—2007

By Ian Wilson, Scarborough Chapter member

I regret to announce that **Ernie Newell**, a member of the Dukes of Harmony for over 35 years, passed away peacefully on August 14, 2007. A memorial service was held on August 20, 2007 in Mississauga. The family asked the Barbershoppers present to sing. ❁

SAM GRAY

1916—2007

By Bob Burrell (with files from the obit notice)

A longtime Ontario Barbershopper, **Sam Gray**, passed away September 11, 2007, in his 92nd year. A celebration of his life was held on September 15, 2007.

Sam was blessed with the gift of music, a gift that he shared with many choirs and with his large barbershop family of almost 50 years.

He was active in barbershop in Saskatoon, then later in London and as a founding member of the *Markham Men Of Harmony*.

He was a pioneer *Suburbanaire*, present at all of the first meetings and for many years after until his condition made it impossible for him to continue to attend.

He was active in the Markham Men Of Harmony, filling most of the executive roles including president and was prominent in the *Ontario District*, being Ontario District President at one time as well as serving in many of the other offices.

Sam requested that as an expression of sympathy donations may be made to the Epilepsy Society, or the Canadian Cancer Society - Prostate Research. ❁

RALPH MC PHERSON

1936—2007

Files from Carolyn McPherson and family,
and George Nicholson

Ralph McPherson, a 35-year member of the *St. Catharines Singing Saints* and the *Barbershop Harmony Society*, passed away June 4, 2007 after a brief fight with brain cancer. Dearly loved husband of **Carolyn** for 41 years. Respected father of **Heather, Mark** and **Warren** and six grandchildren.

Growing up, Ralph farmed, raising both chickens and turkeys. He began doing electrical work as a young boy with his father and continued in that occupation until February, 2007.

Next to his family, Ralph loved four-part harmony in the barbershop and gospel style. He sang with the *St. Catharines Singing Saints, Hamilton Harbourtown Sound, Tri-City Gospel Chorus* and the *Golden Horseshoe Chorus*. He was a member and choir director at Emmanuel United Church until it closed in 2005. Ralph's quiet determination and honest dedication were models to everyone.

During his years with the Singing Saints he was very active in many ways for the betterment of the chapter. With his music knowledge he was the pitch pipe blower at practices and performances, Lead Section Leader, and was assistant director for the past few years.

His involvement and contributions are going to be missed by *St. Catharines Chapter* members and those members of his other barbershop and gospel groups.

A celebration of Ralph's life was held June 7, 2007, at Wainfleet Brethern-In-Christ Church. Many memorial donations to The *Harmonize For Speech Fund* were made.

The Tri-City Gospel Quartet sang songs that blessed us as we celebrated a life so well lived. Thanks for the memories. ❁

RAY ATKINSON

1926—2007

By Ted McAlpine, Barrie Chapter member

Ray Atkinson passed away September 4, 2007. Ray had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease and more recently a bout with cancer.

Ray was a charter member and director of the original *Barrie Chapter* and an active member of the chapter prior to his illness. He was instrumental, along with several other members, in starting the *Vocal Maturity*.

Our hearts go out to Ray's wife **Ann**. ❁

Gone, but not forgotten! ❁