

THE GROVE GANG

Editor, Jim Cochrane

February 2008

WE DID A GOOD JOB IN THE ARDEN



Director Vern Roth leads us in the “hands up” end to Swing Down Chariot. Directors, Jim Moran and Robin Saumer also shared direction duties during our performance at the Arden Theatre. The St. Albert Historical Society was very grateful for our performance.



See page 4 for the report from our president, Cal

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The Arden, (FROM PAGE 1)

Well, we did it. The St. Albert Historical Society show in the Arden Theatre, went off without a hitch. Well that's not really true as the Ladies quartet, Thumbs Up. found that their lead Lori developed extreme laryngitis at the last minute. Two members of their quartet arrived at the 4 pm sound check to let us know with tears in their eyes.

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The Devoinaires. Llew Bertsch, Pieter LeRoux, Gord Schaeber and Cliff Goebel
Was this their Swan Song?

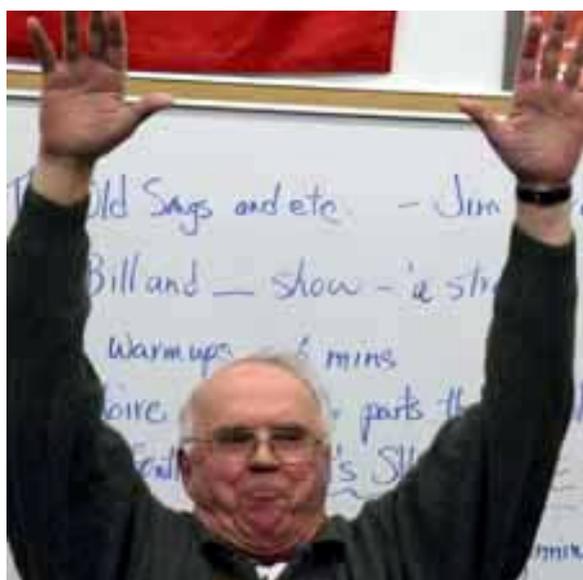
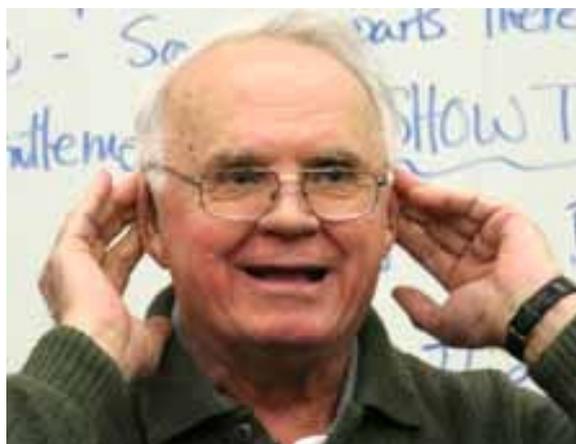


Photographs at the Arden theatre, by Kathryn Cochrane.

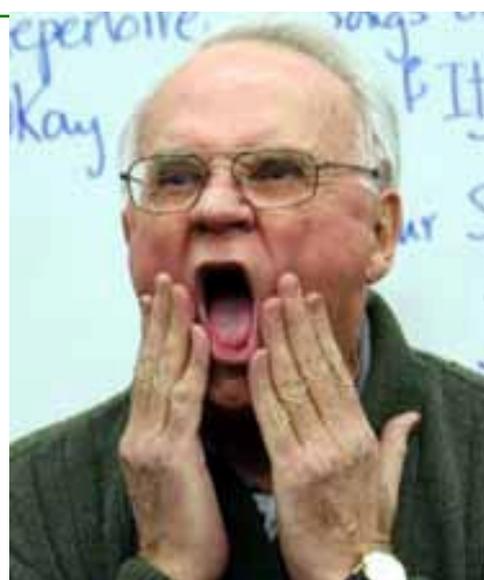
MAGNETIC NORTH, from left;
Randy Nerbas Tenor, Howard Saumer
Lead, Robin Saumer Bass and Jim
Cochrane Bari.

BILL IS BACK

After being away from the chorus for a while as the result of “pain in the foot”, Bill Mathewson is back leading us in his “OK girls, do up your pearls” warmup. Great to have you back Bill, we missed you.



ny



THE PREZ SEZ

Hello to all Grove City Chorus friends.

I am pleased to be your new President and I am excited about our collective potential to have a great year together. I am proud to sing with the Chorus and enjoy the fellowship and our great sound. I thought we did an excellent job of our sing-outs over the Christmas season.

A couple of days ago, I spent some time reading our Barbershop Harmony Society Chapter Management Guide. Yes, there is one and I am glad I took the time to read it.

What struck me was that our Chapter is doing more than 75% of the recommended steps in that guide to have a healthy and happy chapter. Here are some of the things that we do well. We:

define goals for our chapter that are achievable and retain our focus on those goals

remember that our members want to sing and make opportunities for that to happen

generate reasonable income

hold guest nights

welcome new members

have a membership and a voice assessment policy

establish recognition programs e.g. Barbershopper of the Year

build quartet time into the practice and shows

plan and perform successful shows

ensure variety in our program schedule

maintain a balance with having fun and performance improvement goals

develop repertoire

have proper warm ups

compete in the society competitions

use learning CD's

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develop repertoire
have proper warm ups
compete in the society competitions
use learning CD's
participate in learning opportunities
entertain in a variety of venues
maintain relations with the community
develop emcees
once we are a little further along.

I would like to remind all of us that we need to support our Directors and remember that they are in charge of the singing. I know they welcome our input and encourage us to express our opinions about how to improve our singing experience. One way for this to occur is to speak to the Directors during break or before or after practice. I would ask that we all be aware that too much "feedback" during practice can take away from valuable practice time and detract from focus. I have had a number of members express concern to me about the frequent comments from the risers during practice.

Speaking of feedback I encourage you to talk to me and share you ideas, beefs and bouquets so that together we can build on the excellent foundation we have in the Grove City Chorus

Cal



Our Executive:
President, Cal Wraithal



Oh Canada En Francais.

We have decided that there could be a chance for some good publicity if we were able to sing the two national anthems at some high profile gigs, perhaps even at an Oilers game. This requires that we learn them well and even use the French words to part of Oh Canada

. Those of you with the chorus for a while, will remember how Tom Buffie hated singing the bi-lingual version.

We are fortunate to have **Al Eshpeter** and his impeccable French to help us learn the songs. As you can see, he, like the French, also uses his hands and great facial expressions to talk. Thanks Al.



**Left, a quartet in the making,
Vern Roth Baritone, Al McQuarrie Bass, Bill Sykes Lead and Mathew Cherry, Tenor**

Our Executive

President, Cal Wraithal

Secretary, Llew Bertsch

Treasurer, Wan Hip Lee

Music Laurence London

Marketing and Pr, Jim Cochrane and Dick Baker

Newsletter, Jim Cochrane

Directors, Robin Saumer, Jim Moran, Vern Roth

Safety Office, Bill Sykes

Stage Presence, Kevin Radishl

Members at large: Reuben Neufeld and Goren
Shaber

Events Coordinator: Dick Baker

Well, we did it. The St. Albert Historical Society show in the Arden Theatre, went off without a hitch. Well that's not really true as the Ladies quartet, Thumbs Up. found that their lead Lori developed extreme laryngitis at the last minute. Two members of their quartet arrived at the 4 pm sound check to let us know with tears in their eyes.

. I, as well as many others were very disappointed as we really wanted to hear this highly recommended quartet.

Our CHORUS, along with our two quartets, THE DEVONAIRES, and MAGNETIC NORTH, along added some songs and managed to fill out the show. I understand that some extra jokes were told as well.

By all accounts the show was well received and the Historical Society was very grateful. Bye the way, they gave us a \$150 honorarium.

More on the quartet front, the Devonaires have announced that they will not be competing in Red Deer and they are breaking up. They have been a great addition to our performances and have spread the good sound around the district.

News about another quartet, the GROVE COUNTRY SOUND did at least 17 performances on Valentine's Day. Wow, that is a lot of "I love you Truly's" Also, there is another neat story here of one of our chorus members going the extra distance to help out. Cliff Otto, possibly the only other guy in our chapter to hold a Class One driver's licence, filled in for Dick Baker on Valentine's Day so Dick could sing. The spirit of harmony goes beyond singing in our chorus, Well done Cliff.

There have been some quartet noises coming from another four guys. Stick around after practice and hear the nice sounds they are making. Are you guys going to get matching socks and compete? Since I wrote this I find that Vern, Al, Bill and Mathew are indeed planning on competing. In fact they are thinking of naming their quartet, **THREE MONTHS AND CHANGE**, as that is how long they had to get ready for competition. Good Luck Guys. *Jim Cochrane*
