



THE GROVE GANG

Editor, Jim Cochrane

April, 2011

**Mr. Premier
Would you like
To sing with us?**



It was a great day. First of all, our happy bus driver Dick Baker (above) provided transportation and of course we sang on the bus. A little tough with the noise of the road and that everyone now sang vibrato. No problem.

In Feb 2008, the Vegreville Alliance Church burned to the ground. A few months later when the chorus was looking for good causes to sing for, Jim Moran made a suggestion and Reuben Neufeld, who is a member of the Spruce Grove Alliance Church made the contact and told the Vegreville pastor that we would be willing to sing in a fund raiser. This was soon expanded to include a silent auction where home made pies sold for hundreds of dollars. Over \$15,000 was raised.

Premier Ed Stelmach was also there on Sunday and after the dedication and service were over posed for a photo with he chorus. He also said that he had once sung in a choir so several Grove Chorus guys suggested that since he would soon have more time on his hands (he is stepping down as premier in Sept) he might want to consider joining us . (see page 6)



Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach poses with the chorus after the dedication ceremony and below the guys pose outside the new church. (photos Kathryn Cochrane)



THE PREZ SEZ



Happy New Year and welcome back to the Grove City Chorus 2011. We had a banner year in 2010 with an excellent competition

for Division 3 in May 14&15. Many thanks to Cal Wrathall and his committee for the success of that event.

In September the Grove City Chorus made history. For the first time since our inception we went to compete in the Evergreen District competition. The competition was held in Portland, Oregon on September 24-26. Even though not all our members were able to attend, 17 of our members were joined by 12 other members from our division. Not only did we compete but we won 1st place in

the small chorus category. What a great group effort and example to other choruses.

This year we have some new members in our chorus and that is exciting. We are planning a show for Nov 5th and Bill Courtis and his team are working hard to put together all the details. This is a group effort and everyone needs to take an active part in making this a success. There will be a Division 3 competition in Red Deer followed by a District competition in Seattle Washington. As you can see we have a lot of work ahead. Our success relies on each member taking ownership by learning words and music as quick as possible. Learning CD's are available and it is up to each member to do his homework.

I know that we can accomplish all our goals for this year by working together and I'm looking forward to a prosperous and successful 2011.

Frank Travis, President, the Grove City Chorus

Editors note: Obviously President Frank wrote this some time ago. My apologies for not getting the newsletter out sooner. JC

THE NEW GUYS!!!!

This is a new feature to introduce some of our newer members. Welcome Guys.

BRUCE MATHEWSON

Bruce grew up hearing his Dad, Bill singing barbershop. He recalls his father dropping out of barbershopping and asking him why. "It was because of raising the kids and the accident with my sister.

I loved to go to the shows and hearing him sing." Bruce was pleased when his father got back into barber-



shopping with the Grove chorus.

Bruce told me, "I sang in choruses in high school and am always singing and humming, but the real reason I joined the chorus was for my father. I want to spend more time with him".

Bruce finally came to one of our guest nights and during his voice range testing "gravitated towards the baritone section". **OF COURSE HE NOW RECOGNIZES HOW LUCKY HE TO BE AMONG THE SELECTED FEW IN THE BARI GROUP. OK, I ADDED THIS PART. JC**

This gentle giant, has worked for Telus for the past 32 years. He was married and has three sons. His hobby other than barbershop is "home life"

JACK ELLIS



Jack sang barbershop in Regina when he lived there “many years ago” His brother in law sang in the chorus there and enticed Jack into joining. That chorus reminded him very much of the Grove Chorus. “Guys from all walks of life, farmers whatever. There was no pecking order and everyone greeted one another”.

He then went to Vancouver but was too busy there to sing. He joined the Klondike Chordsmen in Edmonton 1969-72 and sang bass with them for that period.

He met Gord Schaber at the Canadian Petroleum Discovery Centre. They were both members there and Jack had donated one of his paintings to the centre when he got talking to Gord. In the course of the conversations, Gord found out that Jack had sung barbershop and opened the door for him. Jack was playing a lot of hockey at that time and again was short of time. However he told me “those guys (the hockey players he was with) were all ex Golden Bears, Oil Kings, AAA players. I’m not one of those but they tolerated me”. Anyway, one day he decided to quit and when Gord found out, he made sure Jack got a ride to the Grove Chorus.

Jack plays the piano and keyboard as well as his barbershopping. He is also a professional painter, artist type painter that is. He was in fabrication but gave that up in 1999 to paint full time. At one time he was exhibiting in 130 galleries, but now is dealing with only 3. He feels the recent economic depression and technology have really hurt galleries, with computer printing also being a big difference.

Jack still paints, but is also marketing and running a polished concrete floors business.

He and his wife Gladys have been married 56 years, however she has suffered from Alzheimer’s for the past 7 years. They have 7 children and Jack had a funny story to tell about that. While living in Regina, a Priest came to their home and said he hadn’t seen them at mass. Jack replied, “Perhaps that’s because we are Baptist”.

Jack is volunteering his expertise in art to help with poster design for our show.

DAVE JACKSON

While growing up, Dave heard barbershop singing on TV so was familiar with the music. However, he had a hard time finding a chorus or group. He works at Matrikon, a software company for the oil and gas industry and lo and behold, Kevin Radesh also works there. It wasn’t too long before he joined us.

Dave was born in Edmonton, but at age 5 moved to Tofield until he finished high school, when he moved back to Edmonton.

While in high school, he played in a number of small bands “Rock, Jazz, Blues. You know Pink Floyd and all that stuff” he told me. Dave and his wife Peg have been married for 14 years and she is a musician as well, singing and playing guitar, fiddle, sax and “anything that rattles”. They are getting together with a few other friends to form another band.

Dave is also singing tenor with the Grove Country Sound quartet, which he really enjoys and has recently graciously agreed to be our webmaster .



JIM HINDE.



Jim first heard the Grove Chorus at the July performance at Fort Edmonton, talked with one of the guys and then came to our guest night. He previously sang in Church Choirs and while in Lloydminster sang in a barbershop chorus during the late 1970's."We even performed on TV and boy were those lights hot" Unfortunately, the director got transferred and there was no one to take over so the chorus folded.

He also sang in a Glee club in Bonneville about 15 years ago. He sang tenor then but finds "I no longer have a tenor voice so is singing lead.

His other musical experiences were playing Trombone in the high school band and then guitar some years later.

He worked in the Oilfield for 6 or 7 years and decided to upgrade, and over the next few years was busy studying Power Engineering, Modern Math and eventually got his steam ticket, but this left little time for music, so he sold his guitars.

He retired in 2006 and loves to travel. After returning from a wonderful cruise this past winter to minus 31 degrees, thinks he may become a snowbird

In the meantime, good to have you with us Jim.

**QUARTET?
YOU BET!**



If you can raed this, you have a sgtrane mnid too
Can you raed this? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can.
I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hman mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in what oerdr the ltteres in a word are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is that the frsit and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot spleling was ipmorantt!

The Grove Chorus is now proud to have 4 registered quartets from our group.
At right is shown one of the newer ones, Step'n Out, along with one of the older registered quartets, Magnetic North.
In addition the Grove Country Sound, actually the oldest quartet, but with a new tenor. Dick Baker,, Lead, Frank Travis bass, Bill Curtis bari and Dave Jackson singing tenor.
There is also of course, Cornerstone, with Brian Key singing Lead, Mathew Cherry tenor, Willie Follette bass and Jim Wilde bari.
This really strengthens the chorus and good luck to all in the May competition.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY, GORD AND NANCY

OK, what do you do if you are a barbershopper and you and your wife are having a wedding anniversary party. Well, you invite the whole chorus and that is exactly what Gord and Nancy Schaber did on the 12th of March.

Not only that, Gord sang with a quartet and fed us all too. It was a great party, with their kids and grand-kids all contributing their talents to the affair.

The chorus even changed the words to Nellie to include both Nancy and Gord's names.



Gord and Nancy are centre stage with the Chorus, singing wait till the Sun Shines Nancy.



Above: Cliff Goebel, Willie Follette and Llew Bertsch join Gord (Pa) Schaber in a song to Nancy and bottom right, Magnetic North also lent their voices to the celebrations.

Photos; Kathryn Cochrane and Joyce Neufeld



One of the new quartets Step'n Out, Kevin Radesh tenor, Cal Wrathall lead, Reuben Neufeld Bass and Llew Bertsch bari. Also sang for Gord and Nancy



(from page 1)

Everyone was most complimentary to the Chorus at the luncheon that followed and several contacts were made for potential shows and customers for our shows.

Right: Premier Stelmach chats with the guys and below, director Robin Saumer keeps our singing in time on the bus. He and Jim Moran did another great job. Well done guys. Below: Reuben presents a plaque to Pastor Crocker on behalf of the chorus.

Oh Yes, the Premier kind of suggested we sing Oh' Canada at the opening of the Legislature.



On the 24th of January, members of the chorus were given "OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" certificates from the the Mayor and Council of Spruce Grove because we "put the Grove on the map" with our win at the Evergreen competition small chorus championships.

The Grove City Chorus meets each Wednesday night from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Broxton Park School, 501 McLeod Ave., Spruce Grove.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE

President: Frank Traviss

Secretary: Cliff Otto 476-9264

Treasurer: Wan Hip Lee 448-6318

Bill Courtis 963-7851

Program: Jim Wilde 438-4155

Music/Performance: Mathew

Cherry 962-5813

Membership: Harold Skidmore 986 6328

Stage Presence: Kevin Radesh 487-0127

Safety Officer: Bill Sykes 962-9804

PR & Marketing:

Jim Cochrane 478-1256

Mathew Cherry 962-5813

Librarian Gordon Schaber 987-0071

Directors:

Robin Saumer 967-2417

Jim Moran 457-149

Newsletter/Photography: Jim Cochrane

SECTION LEADERS

Lead: Howard Saumer Gordon Schaber , (Brian Key)

Tenor: Cliff Goebel, (Mathew Cherry)

Bass: Alan McQuarrie, (Robin Saumer)

Baritone: Jim Wilde, (Jim Cochrane)

OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS:

<http://www.evg.org/GroveCity>

David Jackson is our web-master

Dave.tenor@gmail.com



OK I fell for it and so did most of the other guys on the bus to Vegreville.

Tom (thumbs) Wachowicz pointed out the Polish flag on his car.

He said it was a reminder that on the 20th of April WE ALL HAVE TO GO TO THE POLES.



TOO MANY DOTS?

That's Ok. We are learning a new song.

The gang is doing a good job of getting off paper quickly and the sound is something to be proud of. Now if I could only remember all the words ! Jim Cochrane