

BLUEWATER CHORUS

Owen Sound, Ontario ~ Susan Zammit



I just assumed that every chorus had a yearly installation. It is a time where we welcome the new board, say goodbye to friends that move on, celebrate our accomplishments, and give acknowledgments, to continue with traditions such as crowning a new S.A.L.L.Y., or starting a new one such as the DIVA award. It is relaxing to meet before we break for summer and share great food and laughter and of course singing. It is important I think to pat ourselves on the back and acknowledge those who go a step further to do more, take on more tasks or just plan to make it to practice every week. We all have busy lives, with work, taking care of children, having sickness or surgery but our commitment to Sweet Adelines goes without saying we love what we do and do what we love. What an exciting hobby.

This year Bluewater Chorus celebrates 30 years and plans are well underway for a cabaret. It will be held November 6 at the Owen Sound Legion, in the evening. What an exciting day it will be. Our former members will be there and supporting us and even be a part of the show. Check out our

website for more information.

We plan a barbeque on September 4 at the local grocery store. It is a fundraiser as well as good public relations. We are to host a membership night September 21 although we invite guests to join us any time.

Now that vacation is over, well for most, we get back on track and warm up those vocal chords for another great year of singing. We look forward to learning new songs and visits from our coaches.

GREAT LAKES CHORUS

Sterling Heights, Michigan ~ Karen Behrendt

Greetings Region 2! GLC has had a wonderful summer. The heat has been a little tough during some of the rehearsals, but we do our best. We have enjoyed picnics and parties that give us that rich, wonderful time to socialize. Our fabulous director, Sylvia Karpinsky, holds a day-long picnic at her family cottage on the St. Clair River for the GLC management team and music staff. It is a great time with lots of fun, unbelievable amounts of food and you could say that "work" gets done, but it doesn't feel like work when you are there. We have been able to relax, enjoy vacations and spend time with our families and friends. The always-bustling Donna Brichta holds a picnic and swim party as well which gets a little larger each year and everyone comes away having had a wonderful time.

It is amazing though how much we accomplish though even though some consider this the "slow" time of year. We have continued to learn new layers and tools to apply to our singing together. Sylvia keeps providing us with THE most amazing coaches. Jim Arns always brings us tools and techniques that give us goosebumps. And he helped us get new music off the ground with a vocal plan that is so much fun. As we improve our techniques, we learn music faster and start each new piece in a better place and it is such fun to begin playing with the sound so quickly. The fabulous Vicki Maybury helps us each become better individual singers who pull together to improve our sections. She has become such a brilliant friend to Great Lakes and we come out of our coaching sessions revived right to the core. We also are now working with the fantastic Kim Hulbert! What a thrill it has been tapping into a whole new perspective of approaching the music, both individually, and as a chorus. She did our voice placement and provides SO much information you absolutely have to tape it so that you can go back and remind yourself of all of the excellent points and tips she shared. Then there is the newest coach for Great Lakes -- the remarkable Renee Porzel! She has a take-no-prisoners attitude about performing that is truly an inspiration. Can't wait to see her again.



Much work is also being done as we prepare for our show. Mark your calendars for December 12. We are putting on a holiday show and we will be sharing the stage with the Guardians of Harmony! It is a little odd working so hard on Christmas music when it is so blazingly hot. But we just crank up the air conditioning and that helps get us in the mood. We are so looking forward to singing with the men. It's going to be beautiful. Please come and join us. Check out our website (www.glcsing.org) for tickets or call your Great Lakes buddy and she will be thrilled to make sure you get to come join us.

But let's be honest, as we come to the end of summer, that just means Seattle is right at our fingertips! We are so very excited. The reality of being the final competitor on the international stage has finally sunk in. What an awesome opportunity for us to be able to perform for the whole of Sweet Adelines! We are thrilled at the number of Region 2 sisters who will be there to cheer us on. And we are hearing about those of you who are getting together to watch the Webcast. What a fabulous idea! Hang in there right to the end. It has been a great year and we hope to make you all proud in Seattle. And now for contestant 33 . . .

FESTIVAL SOUNDS CHORUS
Stratford, Ontario ~ Brenda Atchison & Sharon Hunter

April 2010 competition weekend in Dearborn is now a thing of the past, but the memories will live on – the travel, the excitement and stress of competition, the costumes, makeup, time spent together, the food, the fun, laughing till you cried, and, oh yes, the LATE night spent going room to room harmonizing with anyone and everyone!

After Dearborn, Festival Sounds Chorus focused on preparations for our show "Life is a Song" in May. Our show committee, composed of Twyla Dufton, Liana Jennings, Anne Matheson, and Ann Parker, did a fabulous job of the planning and preparation for the two shows. Special guests included the amazing talents of "Chameleon," who wowed us with their perfect harmony and hilarious antics. As well, the step-dancers from Stratford's own Judy's School of Dance had the audience tapping their feet. The success of the show allowed us to make a generous donation to the charity of our choice "L'Arche Stratford."

In early June we held our annual general meeting, which concluded with the installation of the new board.

At the end of June we again gathered at the King's Buffet in Stratford for our annual Birthday Celebration Dinner. We do love to eat! For our theme this year we were required to dress in black/red/white. As usual, our fundraiser raffle table was a hit, but it was also a night for awards, and honoring special members. Mary Dickson passed on the Sweet Adeline of the Year title to the talented Twyla Dufton, and Anne Matheson passed on her Spirit Award to the new and well deserved winner, Noreen Ollivier. The highlight of the evening was a tribute to honor Helene Purdy, a 50-year member of the chorus, and a very sweet and special lady who is affectionately known to all of us as "Mother." Helene enjoyed a trip down memory lane as Olive Siemon narrated a fashion show of chorus costumes from years gone by, modeled by chorus members.

We do not hold regular weekly practices during the summer months, but we do try to get together to eat and

sing. Our annual "Christmas in July" party was held at the home of Jackie Kirkman in St. Mary's. Rather than snow we experienced one of the worst rainstorms of the summer. Despite the downpour, most of the choir members were able to attend, while the rest remained at home pumping the water out of their basements. The potluck dinner was great, of course, and the singing of Christmas carols sounded wonderful in the rain!

Mid-August saw our annual Ramp-Up party well attended. We once again enjoyed a beautiful evening, lots of wonderful food, and the warm hospitality and beautiful gardens at the home of Stella Farwell. We concluded the evening by entertaining Stella's neighbors with our harmonious talents.

Regular weekly rehearsals began on August 25, and in September we will focus on recruiting potential new chorus members as we host three guest nights. September will also see us attending fall regional in London, as we begin another exciting year of harmony, fun, and of course food!



Birthday celebration modeling costumes (Sandy Feick)



June birthday- Mary Dickson (L) passes on her trophy to Twyla Dufton (R) -- Sweet Adeline of the Year



Festival Sounds Christmas in July



June birthday celebration honoring "Mother" (Sherry Langford, "Mother" Helene Purdy, Heather Brown)



Ramp-up party -- Nancy Scott, Brenda Atchison, Olive Siemon



Ramp-up party – newest members Celina Ball, Sandy Feick

Contest was a special time for Grand Harmony. Happily, we achieved two of our goals. One goal was to improve our scores from the previous year. The other was to make our director a Master Director by scoring more than 600 points. Lots to celebrate! Our dinner party after contest was jubilant to say the least. The reading of the High C scrolls by Janet Coulter was hilarious and very well received. The performance by the Sap Buckets (the Elmira contingent of eight women) and all our chorus quartets and guest regional quartets all added up to make a wonderful evening.



A month after contest we were guests on the Kitchener men's show (Twin City Harmonizers). We had to learn songs from the Wizard of Oz as we sang together with the men's chorus and a guest high school jazz chorus. We also had a storyline composed and read by Grand Harmony sisters Judy Hillier and Yvonne Gingerich which tied together all the songs in our performance. To add to our busy evening, we also handled the lobby sales of drinks and snacks ably organized by tenor member Doreen Koenig. We recruited some of our family members to help out Doreen's family who did the lion's share of the set up and selling.

On Monday, May 24 of Victoria Day weekend, we again hosted our annual garage sale at New Dundee at the home of Dianne Ritz. We made close to \$1,000 which is a lot of 10- and 25-cent items! We had a lot of fun in the process of flogging our wares!

In early June we sang at the Lissard House Memorial Service. Lissard House is a palliative care facility and twice a year they have a service and light a candle for each of their patients who has passed away in the previous months. We have done this for a number of years now and enjoy making the service special for the families with our music.

Since contest we can stamp "NEW" on a number of changes in Grand Harmony. In the management team we have a new team leader Jane Stoltz, and financial coordinator Joyce Ireson. The team has also named Lisa Thompson as "member without portfolio." We acquired a new riser person and are delighted with Shahan -- a very nice boy who lives nearby and is proving to be very reliable and pleasant to deal with. Phew!

The music team is also showing NEW faces with Lisa Thompson as assistant director and also new section leaders named: Judy Tuck (bari), Claudia Stewart (bari), Sharon Beard (bass) and a new helper in lead - Elaine Lewis. Mary Adams had been named a general assistant and Claudia Stewart has also been put in charge of the Chorus Visual Product - way to go TEAM!

We took three weeks holidays starting at the end of June and at our last rehearsal night on June 22, we had a wonderful party at Joyce Ireson's. Joyce and her husband Walt provided the meat and the wine and the members brought the trimmings. It was a wonderful meal and the singing in her beautiful backyard by the fountain wall and the rose garden was very special. The weather was balmy and the sky was pink. This writer left about 9:30 for home and the walk to my car was magical as the music carried throughout the neighbourhood, beckoning me back - like the sirens to the sailors.

We did not volunteer at the annual Fergus Truck Show this year and it was a relief not to put all those hours into it, although we shall need a new fundraiser to replace it. We were kept very busy all summer learning our all the new songs for our show in the fall. Our show will take place at the Humanities Theatre at the University of Waterloo on October 2 (8 p.m.). The original script was written by a committee and it took lots of September rehearsal time crammed into our busy chorus evenings to get ready for the show.

A visit by guest coach Chris Noteware in August gave us a wonderful change of pace. We learned so much from Chris and had so much fun doing it! Inviting Pippi Longstocking in and climbing on Linda's bed was the ultimate in fun. It doesn't get any better than that!

We also recently welcomed new members Donna Mortimer (bari), Marni Lee (bari) and Jean McCall (Lead) to our chorus.

Congratulations also go out to our newest registered quartet - Rezonation (current GH members Lisa Thompson (lead), Mary Adams (bass) and CAL members Shelly Smith (from Talbotville ON - bari) and Kay Lewis (tenor from Burlington ON). We look forward to hearing much more from them!

Despite the heavy demands for our show and annual Christmas Tea on December 5, we've also planned a new member recruitment night on October 5. Our chorus has been steadily growing and we want to keep that growth going.

As music school approaches Grand Harmony is in good shape with lots happening and everyone involved (up to their eyeballs)! Can't wait to see you all in September at an absolutely fabulous school! Our best of luck wishes to Great Lakes Chorus and Overture quartet - may all your international dreams come true!



GRAND TRAVERSE CHORUS
Traverse City, Michigan ~ Carly McCall

Greetings from the Grand Traverse Chorus! We hope everyone is enjoying the wonderful summer – we certainly have been! We've been having a great – and busy – time these past few months! Since competition we've been digging into new repertoire, all focused toward our upcoming **annual show on September 25 and our terrific program, "Come Fly With Me!"** Using the themes of flying and soaring high, we've enjoying learning such songs as "Come Fly with Me," and "Fly Me to the Moon," while we've also been working hard on the never-ending goal of improving our technique and making the best barbershops sounds possible. We'll be welcoming a local men's ensemble, Men of Note, back to our concert stage, as well as showcasing some of our own quartets and small ensembles.

As part of our continued learning, we welcomed coach Michael Hayden for a true workout earlier this summer. Michael had us exploring what it means to really match vowels and quickly had us singing creative new exercises and doing some old up-tempo tunes faster than we ever thought possible. All this while remembering to stand with great concert posture during the entire coaching weekend! Whew, what a great weekend, with such a great coach!

We've done a large number of performances over the summer as well. To promote our September show and to increase our community awareness, we've sung short programs for many different private clubs, retirement communities, and our area senior center. Two larger performances have been key this summer – an wonderful return visit (albeit on a blustery night) to Mackinaw City, singing on the city's Summer Concert Series in their fabulous outdoor amphitheatre. We have one more upcoming concert on September 2nd, at a lovely lawn space at a large senior center as part of a free Thursday night concert series that has really grown in the last few years.

Quartet singing is such an important part of being a Sweet Adeline! In addition to supporting one of our long-standing quartets, Sashay, we've also welcomed a new quartet, Esprit de Four, who are just starting to make the rounds and have their own regular gigs. We've also included a new activity into our regular rehearsals. "Quartet Capers," as we call it, gives everyone chance to sing a number, whether in a standing quartet, or in the new ensemble created just for the evening.

We have had several visitors over the past few months, and we're looking forward to promoting a focused membership campaign after we wrap up our September show...it seems as if those December caroling gigs are just around the corner, and that's a great time to bring new members onboard! As always, we extend an invitation to everyone to stop by one of our Tuesday night rehearsals if you plan to be in the area. Please look us up on-line at www.grandtraversechorus.org – we'd love to see you soon!

HEART of MICHIGAN CHORUS
Shepherd, Michigan ~ Sue Wernick

Greetings to all of you out there in barbershop land! Have you managed to survive the heat of this summer? We meet in a school choir



room which is absolutely marvelous but no air conditioning so open doors and fans have helped to make the temperature cooler at our rehearsals every Monday night. We don't take a vacation from our rehearsals and with everyone else taking various times off, we have still managed to have four parts and to participate in several performances.

Our hearts are heavy at this writing. That tragic plane crash that you all read about in Ludington a few weeks ago has greatly affected our community. Shepherd is only a few miles north of Alma so several of us knew all of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. The one person that we all knew and loved was Dr. James Hall, friend, doctor, and fellow barbershopper. Jim was a member of the Midstatesmen Chorus of Alma and a tenor in a quartet named Suitable Union. Jim used to pop at our rehearsals with his quartet when they were in the area and perform for us. We would love it! Hospital rounds would quite often see him donned in his red vest ready to be able to make it to the chorus performances on time. Jim, we will all miss you and never forget you; your smiling face, your caring personality, and your wonderful voice! We were proud to be pan of the barbershop memorial held in your honor!

This past summer we performed several places to help brighten up someone's day. We sang at a local foster care home to help celebrate one of the residents who was turning 100 years old! Another time we performed for a local nursing home in which two of our mothers reside. Another still another time we traveled to Harrison to be part of a flag burning ceremony. This has become an annual affair. After helping with their ceremony singing patriotic songs donned in our flashy patriotic vests, they treat us to hotdogs, etc. It always turns out to be a very enjoyable evening for everyone.

Our annual dinner show is scheduled for Saturday, November 6. The theme this year is "On The Road Again!" Our featured quartet will be Overture! Come and join us as we sing our way across America. Each chorus will be receiving an advertisement flyer in September.

We have really appreciated Paula Harper who has been our director for the past few years. She has let us know, however, that this will be her last year so we will begin searching for a new director next year. Thanks, Paula, for all you have done for us and with us!

Hearth of Essex Chorus is deeply saddened to announce the passing of our beloved director, Julie Banfill, on May 15, 2010, at the age of 57, on the 25th anniversary of the Heart of Essex Chorus.

Heaven's chorus gained its newest member when Julie passed away peacefully with her family by her side after a courageous battle with cancer. Julie was the cherished wife and best friend of Russell Banfill for 39 years. She was the loving mother of daughters Dawn and Lauren, and adored Mimi of Jeremy and Jake.

Julie attended the very first meeting to form the Heart of Essex Chorus and was both a founding member and a charter member. It took a few months for Julie to decide which part fit her voice best.

Eventually she became a bass and joined Joan Stott as bass section leader.

Julie sang in two non-competing quartets, but she always wanted to compete. That dream was met when she became a member of our competition quartet, MAINSTREET. From that time on, her life became intertwined with the ladies of her quartet.

Julie (bass) and Joyce Clarke (bari) met at a quartet workshop in October of 1989. When they sang together they knew their voices matched and from then on were interested in forming a quartet.

Joyce joined the Heart of Essex from Spirit of Detroit in 1994 as a lead. When Cathy Fox's quartet, Sophisticated Swing, disbanded in 1994, Cathy (lead) and Julie decided to form another quartet. Joyce joked that she could always switch to Baritone and join them. So she did! Mary Ellen Demeris (tenor) had enjoyed singing in quartets, but never a competing one, so she joined them in February of 1995.

MAINSTREET got off to a very successful start by winning the Novice Quartet Competition in the fall of 1995 and were the Regional Novice Quartet winners at the following spring regional convention.

They had been representing the Heart of Essex for almost 15 years, performing in the community and competing together in the annual regional competitions. Imagine --the same four ladies competing together for 14 consecutive years! Could this be some kind of record?

Julie was on the membership committee for many years and was an organizer of our annual retreat. She also participated on the dance committee, show committee, and had handled ticket sales. Julie became our assistant, assistant director during Joan Stott's absence, and then stepped up as assistant director when Joan retired from the position.

After she successfully completed her director's audition in September of 2006, Julie was voted in by the membership to take up the position of director of Heart of Essex. It was an excellent partnership. Julie knew just the right mixture of challenge and praise to get the best out of us. When she directed us, her face shone with beauty and grace -- that is what music meant to her. She was an inspiration to all of us.

We will miss Julie! She was a great lady and a super Sweet Adeline. She will always be our gracious and courageous sister. She has earned her place in the Heavenly Choir!



*John O'Donohue
"Eternal Echoes: Celtic Reflections on
Our Yearning to Belong"*

A BLESSING

*May you know that absence is full of
tender presence and that nothing is ever
lost or forgotten.*

*May the absences in your life be full of
eternal echo.*

*May you sense around you the secret
Elsewhere which holds the presence that
have left your life.*

*May you be generous
in your embrace of loss.*

*May the sore well of grief turn into a well
of seamless presence.*

*May your compassion reach out to the
ones we never hear from and may you
have the courage to speak out for the
excluded ones.*

*May you become the gracious and
passionate subject of your own life.*

*May you not disrespect your mystery
through brittle words or false belonging.*

*May you be embraced by God in whom
dawn and twilight are one, and may your
belonging inhabit its deepest dreams
within the shelter of the Great Belonging.*

KITCHENER-WATERLOO CHORUS
Kitchener, Ontario ~ Delores Alexander

As we prepare to celebrate **50 years with Sweet Adelines**, we are able to reflect back to the days when we first began. Looking at old pictures, reviewing our charter and making contact with Sweet Adelines members from years ago have brought back so many wonderful memories. For many of us, it has been a few years but some of our members have enjoyed longevity with the chorus. One of our members, Betty Lundie, is a charter member and still serves on our board and acts as assistant director in the absence of our director, Delores Alexander. We have long-standing members with our chorus including Olive Capindale, Lee Potje, Marion Staschuk, Barb Mallory, Marjorie Piper, Mary Stephenson and Audrey Lindner. We are hoping many of you can join us on **October 3, 2010** to help us celebrate. Invitations have been sent to all choruses in our region.

Our summer rehearsals are inspiring with 85% of our chorus showing up each week. We did alter our schedule for the summer; and we have taken a three-week break. We are enjoying learning some new songs. At present we are looking forward to a trip to Muskoka to do a fund-raising concert in a small community. We will be housed in cottages on the lakes in Muskoka. This is one of our prime cottage areas in Ontario and in September, we will not have to worry about bugs or humidity. We are hoping the fall colour is well underway during this time.

K-W Sweet Adelines have experienced many setbacks this year with many members encountering major health issues. This has been emotionally difficult for everyone; however, we continue to enjoy reaching out to each other, singing together and of course planning special events.

We enjoyed our coaching sessions with Julia and Greg from London. The entire chorus have commented on the tips of the trade and the inspirations received through our time together. Many thanks Greg and Julia.

We are sorry to miss the fall school in London; however, our Muskoka date has been set for some time. We wish you well and hope to see many of you at our anniversary celebration in October.

MICHIGAN NORTHERN LIGHTS CHORUS
Gaylord, Michigan ~ Chris Zarichney

We are very pleased to introduce to everyone our new director, Peggy Braden. Peggy recently moved to the Gaylord area bringing with her a wonderful and exciting musical background! When you see Peggy, please welcome her to our very special organization. We appreciated all the many suggestions and recommendation from our region's membership during our search.

Prior to Peggy's acceptance of this opportunity, our group had been directed by one of our most talented members, Laura Hotelling. Thanks so much Laura! Also, we're very thankful to Sue Heimburger who, also on a couple of occasions, came to help our chorus during practice and was generous enough to direct us during our annual Alpenfest performance.

Although the weather is still quite beautiful here in Northern Michigan, (quite hot, actually) we have begun practicing our Christmas arrangements. We are also very exciting about our upcoming combined chorus Christmas performances with Heartland Harmony (West Branch) and Sunrise Harmony (Tawas) in November and December.

Right now things seem overwhelming at times, but the fellowship during our weekly practices really is therapeutically invigorating and very enjoyable. We look forward to the upcoming fund-raisers and combined practices and ultimate performances.

Please be sure to say hello to Peggy and the gals from our group that will be attending the September Regional in London, Ontario.



SEAWAY SOUNDS CHORUS Sarnia, Ontario ~ Jo Kulik

Time for change and not just the season! Seaway Sounds held a show in June at the Polish Hall in Sarnia to a sold-out crowd. We were joined on stage with Boys Night Out, a smaller group from within Northern Lights men's barbershop chorus. What a night it was! Aptly named "Singin' in the Rain" the skies opened and the heavens poured, but we were indoors having the time of our lives, hoping to get cooled off on that hot summer night.

Our show was two-fold, mainly to entertain our audience, but also to say farewell to one of our co-directors. Karen Shackleton chose that venue to retire from front-line directing and is now enjoying some leisure time. She is willing and well-qualified to coach so you can contact her through www.seawaysounds.com if you require her services.

Now as we approach fall of 2010 our other co-director Michelle St. Onge-Mitchell who is full of energy and enthusiasm has taken the lead! We look forward to a long and loving relationship.



HEART of ESSEX CHORUS
Essex, Ontario ~ Fran Ferguson

After one wedding, two funerals, a number of performances, two rehearsals, and a summer of unbearable heat, the Heart of Essex is still beating strongly and looking forward to another new season beginning September 8!



We partied "heartily" on Saturday night after contest to celebrate our Most Improved Chorus Award. Our fearless leader Diane joined us later in the evening to unwind. Many thanks to our adoptive Mom for

helping us to achieve this honour!

We held our annual election on April 21 and installed our new officers on April 28. Here is our line-up for the 2009-2010 season: President Pat Tellier; vice president Linda Jadischke; treasurer Bonnie Rilett; recording secretary Mary Garrod; corresponding secretary Leslie Little; board members Cathy Fox, Fran Ferguson, and Mavis Minney. Joyce Clarke was awarded the



Dolores Foreman Miss Congeniality award, and the Most Improved Showmanship Award went to Debbie Didomenico. Congrats to all!

Our 25th anniversary party was held at the Caboto Club and many of our founding and charter members joined us. We honoured our performing Quartet, Mainstreet, and the "Heart" of Heart of Essex, Dolores Foreman, with special awards. Our program included 25 years of history and fashion and a performance by our chorus.

Our beloved director Julie was really looking forward to joining us, and she did, but only in spirit. She passed away just before our festivities began, unbeknownst to all but a few members. When Dolores made the announcement, we were totally in shock, but managed to get through a song dedicated to Julie, sharing our sorrow together as Sisters in Harmony.

A few days later we sang at the funeral home where she was resting. Many of Julie's Adelines sisters were in attendance from Shoreline Sound, London Chorus, and the regional management team, as we bade her farewell.

The week after contest, we were visited by a very special lady, Anne-Marie Campbell, who came to congratulate us on our award and then decided to audition to become our new director. After four weeks, she was acclaimed as our new director and at our rehearsal in July she was to sign her new contract. At the end of this rehearsal, she sadly informed us that she had been transferred to a new job position out of this region. We were all very sorry to have to say goodbye to our beautiful Sweet Adelines sister, and wished her well in her new endeavours.

Good News! We are being well looked after by The Man Upstairs. Currently we are auditioning a new potential director in the person of Lois Kelly from the London Chorus! The chorus is eagerly anticipating our upcoming time with this lovely lady. Once again we are planning to be the best we can be and still have fun doing it!

That's about it from Heart of Essex! See you all in London for the fall regional convention. Our president, Pat Tellier will be receiving her 25-year pin and we'll all be there cheering her on!



Wow! Lock Cities Chorus sends you a humid "hello." Like most of you, we have survived a toasty summer here in the North Country.

Undeterred, we have stayed quite busy and may have kept our "cool" by starting practice on our Christmas repertoire (though there is something a touch strange about singing in flip-flops and shorts while working a key change in "Sleigh Ride.")

We kicked off the summer season with our installation of new officers at the home of Terry Lovin, who opened her home and patio, backyard and fire-pit, for a delightful covered-dishing, appreciation-awarding, new crew-installing, doo-wopping, belly-laughing evening of good food and silliness. A special thanks to Princess Poo-poo Head (don't ask) and the Boot Scooters. Really. Don't ask.

Seriously, we appreciate all of you who served so diligently, and hope that those of you who are now stepping up to the plate, will be able to earn the same gratitude and respect that the former members earned.

June 5, we shared the stage and klieg (not a muscle, by the way) with the Northland Barbershop Chorus-Sault Ste. Marie, in a "double feature" performance at the Soo Theatre, a benefit to raise funds for restoration of the grand old theatre in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

It is a tradition that we enjoy, as we have an opportunity to help a worthwhile cause, share in four-part harmony with the barbershoppers, and play to women who might not otherwise have exposure to women's barbershop-style singing; potentially attracting new members.

Many of us enjoyed the afterglow along with family and friends, who rooted for their favourites in the pseudo sing-off between the men and the ladies (chorus and quartets). While there was no official vote and while there may be some bias, I am comfortable it was the ladies who came out ahead-again.

Our next performance, which was spectacularly covered by press, radio and films (well, local TV, at any rate),

was the Bridge Walk, on June 26. This is an annual Canadian/U.S.A. event as part of the July 1st/July 4th celebrations, respectively, and enjoyed by all in the twin Saults.

We have a corner on T-shirt sales and shamelessly hawked them to arriving busloads of walkers who gathered in the parking lot of Lake Superior State University's Norris Center. We do this as one of our annual fund-raisers and give kudos to Colleen Arbic, who orders the shirts and gets them to/from the printer, and LeeAnne McIntyre, whose son designs the biannual logo. We love your designs, Darren. Thanks, and keep up the great work.

We sing both national anthems to kick-start the walk, and then the chorus members, (except for the over-achievers and physically fit, who join the walk) all trapse off to a cholesterol-laden breakfast. Yum!

We are very excited about our new practice facility in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. We practice the first two Tuesdays of each month in Sault, Michigan and the last Tuesdays of the month in Sault, Ontario. We had outgrown our former practice location on the Michigan side, and were delighted when we were offered the opportunity to move our location to McKinley Manor, a newly-built assisted living facility, that offers cathedral ceilings and a spectacular view of fountain and forest . . . of course that's Judy Hendrickson's view (our tireless director). Chorus faces the opposite direction – toward the smiling faces of our delightful audience.

Many of the residents gather on Tuesday, and especially as we have a live (not to mention captive) audience each week, we truly subscribe to that saying "Every practice is a performance" following physical and vocal warmups, and before we work

on our new/revived material. We have developed quite a following of the residents at the manor.

Well-attended by the Lock Cities Chorus, was the area regional weekend in July in West Branch. There was something for everyone, and we all came home more knowledgeable than when we went. We were thrilled to have a location that was accessible to us in the north. We were also grateful to have a location that was accessible to a shopping mall within walking distance. A weekend of "barbershopping?" Life is good.

Four "atta girls" to our newest quartet, "Made in Canada"; Deanna Shanahan (tenor), Trudy Pettenuzzo (lead), Adriana Tomie (bari) and B. A. Maki (bass). They would like you to know that Linda Sirie is an ongoing driving force in their endeavour and are so grateful for her help and support. And a big thanks to Linda Liddicoatt who provided us PVI at the area regional weekend. If you're reading this, Linda, we still can't get Trudy to stand still.

They say that quartets make the chorus better, and though we think we already do a good job as a chorus most of the time . . . with four quartets (Note-orious, Shining Heart, Bridge Mix & Made in Canada) in a chorus of 22 women (that's 73% of the chorus) – I am pretty sure that makes us fairly awesome. That may even be some kind of record!



The London Chorus has been enjoying a fun summer since our success at contest. After basking in the glow of meeting our goal, ("To 600 and Beyond!") we were thrilled to learn that we were invited to the Harmony Classic at the International Contest in Houston, 2011. What a thrill to join our Region-mates, Spirit of Detroit and Fenton Lakes. Region 2 will certainly be representing in Texas!

We were very proud of our two competing quartets, Splice and Loose Ends, for making their regional competition debuts. It's also very exciting to announce that another quartet, Everyday People, has formed since contest. Along with In a Heartbeat, the London Chorus now boasts four fabulous foursomes!

Right on the heels of our return from Dearborn, we were honoured to be invited to perform in the Kiwanis Music Festival 50th Anniversary Gala Stars Concert. We had the opportunity to sing alongside other well-respected London musical groups to celebrate 50 years of the music festival taking place in our community.

Our Birthday Party took place at Harmony Manor on May 5, where a very special "first" took place. The London Chorus gives two annual awards to outstanding members each year, the Sweet Adeline of the Year Award and the Mary Wilson

Congeniality Award. Both awards are voted on by all members, and this year, an extraordinary Sweet Adeline took home both awards! Mary McEwen, a 16-year member, seems to do it all-she is our make-up chair, keeps track of all our music, works on choreo and costumes, is a long-time dedicated front-row singer, and she does it all with a bright smile on her face! If you'd like to learn more about Mary and these awards, check out our website, <http://windmillwebworks.sytes.net/londonchorussweetadelines/index.html>. Congratulations Mary on your special achievement, and thank you for your continued dedication to London Chorus!

A good balance of work and play is important to be a happy Sweet Adeline. We enjoyed three weeks of cooling off at pool parties on Wednesday nights in June/July, where the order of the day was fun in the sun, singing, and of course, yummy potluck dinners!

It hasn't all been "R n' R" though. London Chorus has been busy supporting our community by entertaining at fundraisers. We were featured in a show just down the road in Exeter, Ontario in June. The "Strawberries and Champagne" Silent Auction aimed to raise money for the Temba House AIDS Mission in Africa. The audience enjoyed everything from

our "Abba set" to our contest songs, and the London chorus enjoyed raising money for this important cause. The Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) invited a group of London Chorus members to sing at their annual fundraising walk in August. This is not the first time London Chorus has roamed at this event to entertain the walkers and their supporters.

We're having fun working on new repertoire songs and gearing up for some hard work in the coming year to prepare for our International performance. We enjoyed our coaching session with Chris Noteware in August. She's practically part of the London Chorus family, and we always benefit from her humorous and positive constructive feedback.

There is much to look forward to this fall. We are having a Guest Night on September 1st. It's always such a blast to welcome new women into our wonderful hobby. We are excited to welcome you all to our fine city for Music School in London. See you soon! If you'd like to keep up on the happenings of the London Chorus in between issues of Border Lights, you can follow us on Facebook, <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Sweet-Adelines-London-Chorus/111590962214833>



RIVERLIGHTS HARMONY CHORUS
Windsor, Ontario ~ Marilyn Arseneault

Hi y'all! Don't know about you but, over here in our little southern corner of Canada, with our Southern belle director, we have had a very successful Christmas, Christmas in July, that is. In a drive for new members we put on the red, dusted off our Christmas earrings, and invited folks to join us to learn a new Christmas song each Wednesday in July. We had a great turnout, a lot of fun, and although the total count is not in just yet, we have definitely gained a number of new members. Not to mention, we are a step up toward all those holiday gigs ahead of us.

What better way to follow Christmas than to dive into Marg Barnes and Kay Kellet's pool on a delightful, over-90-degree day. All of us in our "Teeny Weeny Bikinis" relaxing both in and out of the water. And the food – oohh it's always about the terrific barbecue and wonderful dishes brought by all the gals, isn't it. We are so lucky Marg, Kay and Marg's daughter Janet put up with us each summer.

We are having a very busy summer. There is absolutely no way to take time off. We recently performed for the South Windsor Seniors. It was a joy to sing for such a happy group. It was a fun, hot day at the 26th annual Steam and Gas Show in McGregor. After singing on stage we were transported to another part of the park to perform for the Better World Today Association. This is an organization that promotes Bone Marrow Awareness.

In September we will be singing at a fundraiser for the Sun Parlor Home Aux. Also this month we had a lovely visit from Marlene Babb, a member of the management team. It was very nice of her to drop by and the baris were very happy to have her join us for a few songs.

We had a successful garage sale in June and the Bingo Gals keep working bingos several times a month – all to help support the chorus. Before we know it, it will be the Christmas season and our Christmas in July will pay off with new music and new members. What more could we ask? Well, there is one thing! We wont be happy until our wonderful bari, Sherron Ramsay, is back with us. She has just had heart bypass surgery in London and is now on the mend.

Our best wishes to all Region 2 and we hope you have all had a great summer.



TRI CITY CHORUS
Auburn, Michigan ~ Stannette Malosky

Greetings from Tri City Chorus! Hope your summer has been as "fulfilling" as ours! We had many singouts, but the highlight has to be our bus trip to Washington, D.C.! We had a special show designed as a Tribute to Our Troops, and was honored to perform it at Vinson Hall for many retired military. We sang in front of the Jefferson Memorial, had the privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and toured numerous historical sites. The only drawback was the 100-degree temperature! Early spring or fall would be a more comfortable time to visit!

Our Salute to the Troops show was brought to Caseville for our Harmony Weekend in July and we are taking it to Pinconning and Gladwin this summer. For the Caseville Harmony Weekend show, our chorus collected many needed items to donate to the Huron County Safe Place. Of course, as well as our chorus performing, our quartet Rejuvenation performed, and the mass chorus was again directed by our "friend", Miss Liddi! (. . . wonder who that is?)

Looking forward and preparing for our Christmas show at the State Theater in December, many singouts during the holidays, and then learning new choreography for our competition uptune. That's right, it'll be here before we know it, especially as fast as this summer has gone!

Hope to see you all at fall regional.





SHORELINE SOUND CHORUS
Royal Oak, Michigan ~ Mary Linda Gauche

Marlene Babb is the new Region 2 Communications - Technology Coordinator while Linda Liddicoatt is our Directors Coordinator. Region 2's Shoreline Sound is proud to have several of its members represent us on the regional management team (also including Becky Cherry - Finance.)

Bridge 2 Harmony, held in April at the Dearborn Performing Arts, is now but a pleasant memory; but it will linger with its competitors for a long time, I'm sure. Everyone has much of which to be proud.

Perhaps top of the list in excellence would be kudos to Heart of Essex Chorus for their astounding 88 points earned as Most Improved Chorus! With Diane Catellane as acting director for our beloved Julie Banfill, this chorus went on stage with tons of "heart" and soul and wowed everyone. Shoreline is so proud of them and thrilled to have several of its members performing dual with us.

Shoreline came away winners in two categories: second place in Mid-Size Chorus AA awards and third place chorus finals, with our best scores to date in all categories.

Our congratulations, of course, go to Spirit of Detroit as overall winner, to London as winner of Mid-Size, and to Fenton Lakes as winner of Small

Chorus. Friday's quartet contest was a nail-biter as well, and this year the blue went to Overture (Kimberly Salyer, Nan Wardin, Dodie LaMarte and Kathy Green) with second place going to InVoice! and third place to Friendship Rings. Teal, aqua and varying shades of this color were popular in this year's chorus gathering; and we all sparkled aplenty on stage in this flattering color of the palette.

We held our installation dinner at our favorite location, Lakeland Manor, in April and welcomed in the new slate of officers for 2010-2011. Many of the same members will still comprise our governing board and continue to run our well-organized chorus during the coming year.

We were joyous to have our Marylou Montpas with us that evening as she recovers from breast cancer surgery as well as two of our associate members, Sue Ferguson and Barb Gould, both who have had recent health issues. Marylou and Sue had great fun showing us their shiny heads underneath their stylin' wigs, though Sue had the edge on Marylou with a half inch of pure white fuzz now growing. We are so proud of these ladies and continue giving them our love and support.

On May 15, Heart of Essex and Shoreline Sound lost our treasured

friend, Julie Banfill, after her courageous battle with cancer. She wore many hats (director-Heart of Essex, bass in Mainstreet, dual member of Essex and Shoreline and camping buddy) and always had a ready smile and positive words for her friends. It goes without saying that we have lost a wonderful soul.

We are so extremely proud of our Anne Kotchman who will receive the MENC Teacher of the Year Award at international this October. She shines and excels at everything she accomplishes. A bonus will be having Judie Sharpe (she now lives in Port Angeles, Washington) there with Anne. Imagine that: two recipients of this fine award and BOTH FROM SHORELINE SOUND!

Our summer raced by, and we enjoyed ourselves with participation in Lakeport camping, working at the Renaissance Festival for Royal Ale and Highland Fling Festivals, all-time favorite Harrisville camping and, into September, performances at the Grosse Pointe Block Party and the Commonwealth Club on September 12. Fall regional promises to be terrific this year in London with excellent faculty - June Dale and Erin Howden of North Metro.



SPIRIT of DETROIT CHORUS
Farmington, Michigan ~ Polly Snider

A NEW SPIRIT SEASON

The calendars are marked -- IN INK. The schedules are posted. Spirit is privileged to rise to the role of champion. Our journey to Houston has begun!

Contest highlights the culmination of one season while marking the beginning of another. What a spectacular contest it was! April brought the gold for Spirit of Detroit Chorus. Our quartets were among those attaining the highest honors. Awarded the blue ribbons and bouquets was Overture. Kim Salyer, Nan Wardin, Dodie LaMarte and Kathy Green took the stage with a performance that can only be a prelude of greatness. With a vibrant sound and an air of familiarity, Friendship Rings achieved the white ribbons that bear the third place medals. Overdrive kicked it into high gear and rose to fourth place.



May brought a new board, a new president, and a new Sweet Adeline of the Year. Andrea Strutz handed the gavel to Carol Adray and the new administration took the helm. We look forward to great things. The voyage to Houston begins. The highest of accolades in recognition of a member's exemplary service was granted to Amy Kreger. Congratulations and thank you to this incredible lady. May also saw another of our quartets honored. Fusion took fourth place in Region 17's contest.

June began with a garage sale. What a wonderful way to raise funds and promote the chorus. Patti Cobb Baker was introduced to Spirit. Not only did the chorus receive the benefits of her expertise, but each section was given a "one-on-one." Formerly with NASA, Patti now devotes her time to vocal instruction. You might say that she still works in "air and space." We're setting the foundation for Houston.

After a break, we come to July. Here we saw Vicki Maybury. How wonderful to have private vocal lessons with her. More unified vocal production means more unit sound. New music was introduced. Ah yes, Houston.

It's August and Spirit feels the talents and energies of Tony DeRosa. Whoo-hoo! A new uptune. We'll fly in Houston!

Pass your audits Spirit! In September Renee Porzel will coach showmanship. How wonderful to have our new international president sharing her expertise with us. September 21 begins our membership drive. We'll have new members with us in Houston!

In October Spirit of Detroit will see the genius that is Jim Arns. Then we momentarily put Houston aside and look to Seattle. It is there that Overture joins our own LeAnn Hazlett and Journey on stage. Spirit of Detroit would like to wish the best of luck to our two quartets and The Great Lakes Chorus. Break an eyelash!

This brings us to November. Save the date! **Sunday, November 14, 2010, 2:30 p.m. at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.** "In the Spirit 2010" will showcase Spirit of Detroit Chorus. Performing with the chorus will be Overture, Resisting-A-Rest, and Max Q. Get a front row seat and share the excitement.

What a tribute to our Region 2! Not only will Spirit of Detroit Chorus compete, we will be privileged to share the stage. London Chorus and Fenton Lakes Chorus are competing in the Harmony Classic. LOOK OUT HOUSTON, HERE COMES REGION 2.

WATER WONDERLAND CHORUS
Okemos, Michigan ~ Susan Zammit

Traveling Harmony Show -- Water Wonderland took a summer vacation away from our home base (no one was really looking forward to rehearsing in an un-air-conditioned middle school choir room) and took our rehearsals on the road to area retirement centers. We were treated to lovely locations, cool central air, and appreciative audiences of residents who came to listen to our mini performances and hard-working rehearsals. We hope that we gained some new fans at Burcham Hills Retirement Community in East Lansing, Ivan Woods Senior Apartments in Lansing, and Independence Village in Grand Ledge.

In addition to new locations, we've also been working on lots of new music this summer. We're rocking out to an awesome queen medley (think Freddy Mercury, not ladies with tiaras), and channeling our inner Sousa with a rousing parade uptune.

Throw in a couple of yummy new ballads and you've got the perfect summer rehearsal plan. We've also been having fun with summer entertaining, beginning with performances for the City of Lansing's "Chalk of the Town" and "Be a Tourist in Your Own Town" event and continuing with an ice cream social and performance at the beautiful bandstand in Lake Lansing Park (sounds like there should be a song about that . . .)



Several chorus members entertained a very lively reunion group from the Lansing Catholic Central Class of 1942, and we're getting ready to sing the national anthem at a 9/11 pre-game tribute before a Capital City Stealth minor league football home game.

Of course, we couldn't end the summer without spending Labor Day weekend in Harrisville, with hundreds of our favorite singing buddies -- and trying to bring home the participation trophy once again.