



# Burlington Welsh Male Choir

## News From Friday Nights

Edition 2010

Issue I

Notes from the Co-Editors submitted by

**Rod Green and Rick Rozoski**



The 2010 season for the Burlington Welsh Male Choir began with the terrible news that Gerry Hubball lost his battle with cancer and on January 30<sup>th</sup> we attended his funeral mass at St. Gabriel's church in Burlington.

Later that same day we sang at a concert at St. Joseph's church in Hamilton where we were joined by the terrific "Voices of the Savannah". The concert was thoroughly entertaining and you'll see some audience comments later in this newsletter regarding this performance.

Our annual St. David's day concert was dedicated to Gerry and the BWMC donated \$1,000 to the Carpenter Hospice from the proceeds in his memory.

He was also missed at the last John Langford do in Toronto and we sang "The Working Man" in his memory with Gareth Williams singing the verses Gerry used to sing.

Members of the choir also organized a fund raising event in the Poachers Pub in Gerry's memory that generated a donation of \$1,200 to the Carpenter Hospice. Gerry's Wife Angela and his daughters were at both events and are very grateful to the choir for their support through this very sad time.

We remember Gerry and Angela on the Corning tour dinner cruise singing "Working Man".

Our condolences go to Angela and the entire Hubball family. He will be greatly missed by many

On March 6<sup>th</sup> we appeared for the first time in our new uniforms at the St David's day concert at St. Christopher's church in Burlington. The concert was a SRO (Standing Room Only or Sold Right Out – whichever you prefer) concert. Thanks to a last minute surge in ticket sales, boosted by the members of the Canadian Orpheus Male Choir, we managed to fill



the church to overflowing capacity and everyone enjoyed the performance. We were joined on stage by tenor soloist Gwyndaf Jones who added to the evening with his dulcet tones.

On a personal note, my sister, who has heard us perform several times, commented that we have improved immensely since Janice has taken over as musical director and she said, "The way she (Janice) directed the choir at the end of "The Rose" was incredible." Another former member of the Canadian Orpheus was literally brought to tears at the end of "If We Only Have Love".

The afterglow at the Queen's Head was well attended and eventually resulted in a former member of the Canadian Orpheus Male Choir, Geoff Coates, deciding to join our choir. Welcome Geoff! The evening was an overwhelming success.

We recently completed recording our new CD in May and Janice had undertaken special sectional rehearsals to ensure the best possible sound was recorded and we truly appreciate her commitment to excellence in this regard.

I have received the individual portrait photos of each member taken by Huw for our BWMC display board and we should have it well before our trip to Boston in September.

Rod Green and I have been soliciting article submissions from the members and encourage your



support. Please send us...articles, stories, photos or anything else we can include in YOUR newsletter.

Hopefully you like this new format. We plan to continue improving as I become more familiar with the new program.

President's Report submitted by **Huw Jones**



**F**ollowing the initial publication of a choir newsletter and a very positive response from members, the editors have worked to produce a second edition.

I was also encouraging in my response, however, I did not know that I would be expected to pen a few more words for this and ongoing editions! Potential President aspirants, should be mindful of this seemingly new responsibility !

We are about to break for the summer, having enjoyed a good year under the guidance of Janice, together with the talents of Larisa. Capping the year was the recording of a new CD, of which I am sure, we will be proud. Janice put in a lot of extra work to tweak the parts, with sectional practices. It was great that we had 58 members attend for the recording, in dress uniform. For those who were away, you will not be left out, as on your return, we are considering recording you individually and then adding it to the final mix !

When we return to rehearsals at the end of August - dates will be confirmed soon - we shall be preparing for the tour. The Boston choir, from their e-mails, is looking forward to our visit, with the concert venue and afterglow location already booked. I am investigating the possibility of perhaps, a short lunch-time performance on the Friday, at one of downtown Boston's historic churches. Failing that, we can always sing at the Sam Adams Brewery, of which there are tours and free tastings - I thought that would get your interest !

Enjoy the summer break and sell the Burlington Welsh Choir to all potential interests.

Cofion gorau, Best wishes

Huw Jones

President BWMC

Aspirations for choir members submitted by

**Janice Beninger**



**H**ere is a short summary of my thoughts on factors contributing to excellence in our choral singing. Try to be aware of all of these concepts, so you can aspire to sing very well.

**Pitch** Choristers need to sing precisely in tune (meaning on the correct pitch and in the centre of that pitch). Learn your notes, and then listen carefully to the pitch of other singers in your section and to the choir as a whole.

**Tone Timbre** (or colour) must blend with the other singers, have resonance and not be breathy when quiet, nor shouting when loud.

**Volume** All singers need to blend in volume, so that no individual voice stands out as louder than the others. This is not a competition for who can sing the loudest!

**Pronunciation** In whatever language, the text must be pronounced accurately with correct diction, placement of consonants, pure vowels and careful timing of diphthongs (double vowel sounds such as "my" = "mah-ee")

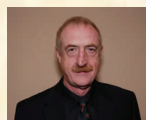
**Attention and watching the conductor** You have to be able to concentrate for long periods during rehearsals, to be attentive at all times, and keep your eyes on the conductor.

**Breathing and Musical Phrasing** Learn where the director asks you to take breaths and how to shape the phrases for a musical interpretation. Phrases will very often swell and then end with a softer tone on the final note or notes, with the result of having the music undulate and flow. It's this flowing that allows music to mimic the spoken word and to be most expressive. Musical expression, along with the expressions on our faces and our postures, are what communicate best, to our audiences, the meanings of our songs.

**Memory** Put in some time on your own to memorize the music and words.

A Report on Fundraising submitted by

**Graham Barnes**



**S**ometime in November the choir executive decided that Fundraising was necessary for the financial health of the choir and I was asked to Chair the fundraising efforts. I work through Ray Williams who is the conduit for the choir executive.

Through a friend of mine, Keith Strong, the choir has been able to use the services of a PR person, Jenna, at no cost to us. Julian and Jenna have worked hard to produce a choir pamphlet that will be used to approach businesses for corporate

sponsorship. I understand from Julian that a rough draft is nearly ready for the pamphlet.

Cye Beechey and I, with other person's assistance, ran a St. David's Day event as a choir function. The rugby club was not involved and the event sold out.

We are in the process of obtaining a lottery licence in order to hold a raffle. Anyone willing to assist please see me.

It's early days yet but we are off and running.

**Note:** Some employers such as Petro Canada and Royal Bank have programs that provide financial support for staff and pensioners who volunteer their time to charities. Check it out – you may be working for one of them!

On Stage Decorum submitted by

**Andy Morgan**



**H**ere is a short reminder of on stage presence:

**Uniform:** Wear "plain" black socks and shoes with all uniforms. (unlike John Edwards who sometimes wore black socks with little pink elephants).

**On stage:** Hands by sides ( no need to protect the "Crown Jewels").

Try to get your entire nose picking, itching, scratching and throat clearing etc. done before hand.

Listen to instructions for getting on and off stage and seating. Choir Marshall will give signals to sit/stand. Hands on knees when sitting.

Always have "eyes" for the Musical Director.

Please no talking on stage. Stages and churches were designed to project all sound.

**Words:** Members should make every effort to learn words and music. Welsh pronunciation lessons are available before rehearsals and Welsh phonetics will soon be available on the website. Anyone who requires a hard copy of any of the phonetics, please ask Mike Skyrme or myself.

We are not an army, but the sum of all these points make us into a smart professional team with a good appearance.

Most of all...enjoy the concert!!

## The Poachers' Carol Sing

**S**everal hardy choristers and some wives ventured out on December 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Annual Carol Sing.

The Sing started at the Poacher and visited a number of downtown Burlington restaurants and bars ( including one coffee shop) and ended at the Queen's Head. The purpose was to have fun and raise money. This year's beneficiary was Brother Terry's "Good Shepherd Centre" and a little over \$800 was raised.

We missed Bother Terry at the event but reasoned that his boss probably wouldn't approve him participating in a pub-crawl even for such a worthy cause!

The afterglow you ask....The Poacher! of course!



Graham Barnes, Geoff Coates, Hugh Johnson, Richard Harvey and Gerry Welham arm up with a cold one following an evening of singing carols in Burlington's core.



## *Thinking Nationally -*

### *Fighting Locally*

*The "Motorcycle Ride For Dad" is Canada's largest annual motorcycle event dedicated to the advancement of prostate cancer research and awareness and is the initiative of the entire law enforcement community. To date, The Ride has collectively donated over five million dollars to our fight against prostate cancer! The Golden Horseshoe Chapter includes Halton, Hamilton and Niagara and the ride will take place on Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> - appropriately just before Father's Day. I don't ride a motorcycle but I have been raising funds for this cause for many years and have attained a bronze level captain status.*



*My father died of this disease and I would like to see research continue to ensure fewer men have to endure the same fate. I appreciated the previous support from the members of the Burlington Welsh Male Choir and the Canadian Orpheus Male Choir as well as my colleagues at the Hamilton Police Service and I am once again collecting for this cause. Please consider supporting this worthwhile event. The life you save may be your own.*

*Rick Rozoski*



*"The concert was even better (how's that possible) than the last time! When the men sing "ppp" it sounds like a soft wind is blowing through the trees, and in contrast their "ff" makes my insides shiver and the hairs on my arms stand up. What sound, what emotion, what a performance!"*

*"How wonderful was last night!!!! What a commitment you have made and the hard work you must put in to sing like you did last night!!!! Thank you for making it a very enjoyable evening you and your choir are awesome...."*

*"Gord and I loved it....the combo of voices was so stirring....and I loved their choice of pieces....some new to me and some so wonderfully familiar....I can't ever think of 'a working man am I' without getting teary....now there's a whole new layer of poignancy added to it...."*

*"I have a new hero in Janice. I'm awestruck that she can silence 50 men with a wave of her hands! I wonder if I can make it work on my three at home!"*

*"Most entertaining: Enjoyed the different types of singing."*

# Newest Member Personal Introductions



**Geoffrey (Geoff) Coates**

I was born in Bradford Yorkshire in the second month of the Second World War. I was quite young when I joined the local Anglican Church choir. This experience, which lasted for a good ten years, imprinted a love of the simple melodies of religious music.

At 12 years of age I went to the local Hanson Boys Grammar School and from there to medical school at Kings College, University of Durham in Newcastle -on-Tyne. I very quickly became fluent in the Geordie language. After graduation in 1963, for an adventure, my wife Dorothy and I came to Newfoundland for one year before taking up a training position back in Newcastle. We never did go back and I ended up as a General Practitioner in Ansonville near Timmins in Northern Ontario. We spent five years in the frozen north before moving to Toronto for specialty training. In 1973 I did a research year in U.C. Davis California and then with three daughters and wife Dorothy moved back to Canada to take a position in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the McMaster University Medical Centre in Hamilton. Our family has expanded in recent years to include three grandsons. I retired from McMaster in 2008 but still work one day a week at the Cambridge Memorial Hospital.

Over the years I have enjoyed hiking, travel and sailing and more recently Dorothy and I have taken up golf. We both thought this was an easy game, after all the ball doesn't move. How wrong we were. I have also always enjoyed music and I do mess about with guitar and keyboard. I joined The Canadian Orpheus Male Choir in 1988 and enjoyed many years of glorious music with Lyn Harry and great fellowship with the choir members.

At the Burlington Welsh Male Choir concert at St. Christopher's Church in March I realized how much I missed that kind of repertoire and that kind of afterglow. I look forward to many years with the Burlington Welsh.



**Charlie Hare**

I was born, raised and still live in Port Credit. Judy, my wife of 35 years, still puts up with me and we have 2 wonderful children Joanne and Stephen, one grandson Camden ... and another on the way. We love to travel. Professionally I'm a Computer Science guy and designed, programmed and managed computer systems for Gulf Oil/Petro-Canada in Toronto for 30 years retiring 10 years ago. For longer than I can remember now I have been a volunteer race marshal at North American road and street racing circuits (we're the guys dressed in white at each corner) and have accumulated over 300 events (race days) to date at Formula 1, Indycar, ALMS and everything at Mosport. As I become older and rounder, my diminishing ability to outrun flying race cars and debris has had me thinking about a newer hobby which would be less likely to get me killed. I saw BWMC sing at the First United Church in Port Credit 2 years ago and thought that you'd be a GREAT group to join but, being a procrastinator, it wasn't until my cousin Cyril Hare asked me if I'd like to join him that I took the leap. Forty-four years ago I sang in the Junior, Senior and Male choirs at Port Credit Secondary School so I may be a bit rusty but the love is still there.

**BWMC**

**PROGRAM ADVERTISING RATES**

- **BUSINESS CARD** \$50
- **QUARTER PAGE ( 2 1/4" X 4" )** \$100
- **HALF PAGE ( 5 1/2" X 4" )** \$200
- **FULL PAGE ( 5 1/2" X 8" )** \$400