

# CHIMO CHIRPS



September 2009 Bulletin # 18



Meetings - Monday night at the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, 2319 Louise St., Saskatoon, SK. 7:30 p

## Keep your brain fit

**Sing a new song** with lyrics you enjoy, but learn to sing it memorized. Once you've mastered one song move to another. *The reason:* Developing these skills will sharpen your understanding. **Eat plenty of blueberries.** Add blueberries to your diet. *The reason:* Studies suggest that a diet rich in blueberries can improve memory, balance and coordination. **Find a solitary activity** such as completing a crossword puzzle, and see if by concentrating you can succeed better and more quickly. *The reason:* By making activity more demanding, you'll reengage the brain's leaning machinery. **Learn to use the other hand.** If you are right handed use your left handed ( or visa-versa) Start with brushing your teeth, then build to more complex tasks such as eating. *The reason:* Doing a familiar exercise in a new way will help millions of neurons learn new tricks! **Get more exercise.** Brain health is another reason to get on your bicycle, go swimming or whatever else you like to do to exercise your body. *The reason:* Exercise has positive benefits for the hippocampus, which is important for learning and memory. It can also help create new cells.

The sermon this morning is "Jesus walks on the water" and the sermon tonight will be "Searching for Jesus"

## A SHOW CRITIQUE

Here's a new angle for looking at ourselves. These comments were made by a grade 10 student (Danica) for a school project. She chose our most recent show at which she had attended to watch her grandpa - Allan Merkowski. She scored 10 out of 10.

Performance: "The degree of difficulty ranged from easy to difficult and especially, in the second number (This Little Light of Mine) had two parts overlapping.

Favorites: My favorite songs were – *In the Good Old Summertime*. Very nostalgic and the audience was invited to take part. *In My Room*. This was nice because my grandpa was one of the leads in the octet, and it was fun to hear him. *Don't Bring Lulu*. The chorus had a lot of fun singing that one.

Balance: The balance was good and I thought the leads were louder. There were 25 on stage, with 10 leads, 7 bass, 4 baritone and 4 tenor.

Pitch: the singing flowed very well, but at times it would get slightly flat and take on a dull tone. Each section sang their parts confidently.

Tone – Teach the Children to Sing, was somewhat serious and the sound echoed throughout the auditorium. Then in Don't Bring Lulu the tone shifted to light and bouncy.

Diction – the words were very clear and the messages were clearly conveyed. The endings sometimes seemed to cut off too quickly.

Expression: The chorus did a great job of expressing the uplifting emotions of each selection, and they enjoyed performing

Posture: All of the members stood properly and they sang out to the audience.

Dynamics: The chorus followed Levi's direction very well. When they got louder the tone & diction did not change, but when they got softer they lost their diction and pitch. Good dynamics helped to express the joy of singing.

Breathing: Their breathing was not very good because their shoulders lifted throughout each song and some did not have enough breath to last through the phrase. Staggered breathing for some pieces worked better."

**So there you have folks, and you thought maybe a grade 10 student wouldn't be interested ?**

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Wakaw

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the founders of the Wakaw Heritage Museum were honored with an event referred to as Heritage Day. There was a 50 float parade in the morning with food booths and an outside program featuring a youth band, Irish dancers, a barbershop quartet and several additional numbers in the afternoon. A fashion show completed the day just as a rain shower cooled things off. The museum was open for viewing and former chorus members Neil McCullough and Gordon Kidd and their wives were actively involved in the preparation and directing the events.

The 'make up' quartet had a delightful time what with hot dogs and ice cream cones, lovely rural people, and the appreciation from those folks for us adding something of interest with our roaming quartet.



Merv Tole, Gordy Kidd, Frank Zunti and Ray Penny sang in the parade, the museum, the Rec Centre and wherever there was an audience !

## Why Everyone should sing !

For Annie Lennox, singing is much more than a job or a hobby. She explains why. For her it means freedom.

"When you perform to an audience, no matter how big or small, there's an expectation there. Performing is all about preparation. When you step out on stage, you've prepped it up, you're on automatic and it should just unwind naturally.

Singing a song is one thing but expressing a song is another – it's deep. That's why you don't have to be the best singer technically, as long as you can convince people of your emotional authenticity. Performing isn't just about the voice – there's magic to it, alchemic quality. A song has the potential to make a person react: to choke up, to want to cry or want to dance. Once you start a song, you enter a certain zone. You're expressing yourself whether you're singing with other people or to other people, it's just so feelgood. It's as natural as breathing eating or sleeping, but often our culture is so judgmental and repressive that sometimes people lose that. There is something in singing that is uplifting and freeing of your spirit.

On the risers (and at practice), if you're not paying attention you are not only unprofessional but it reflects on the rest of the chorus or group and I for one don't appreciate it.

## The Red Cross Gig

On May 14, 2009 several quartets took part in entertaining the blood donors (and nurses). Here we may have a new recruit from Radio CFRC FM 90.5 !



L to R - Len, Allan, Ralph, Frank, new member? and Ray (partly 2<sup>nd</sup> St & 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Octet)



L to R – Wayne, Dale, Jack & Dave with blood doner. That's an Ahhhh as in song – maybe !

### *Some answers on an elementary school bible test:*

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

The seventh commandment is thou shall not admit adultery.

**Monday, 7:30 pm** (every week): **Chorus practice.** Everyone is welcome (*and urgently needed*) to work on the songlist for the Fall Barbershop Show Nov. 2 -----

**Wed. Sept. 9, 2009:** 7:30 pm. **Chapter Board** with chapter executive and board members. The Board meets in Sask Abilities Board Room every second Wednesday each month. All members are welcome.  
-----

**Monday, Nov. 2:** 7:30 PM **Fall Barbershop Show** at Sask. Abilities Cncl. Auditorium. Help spread the word about the Fall Show to your family, your friends & neighbours, and mention to everyone that this event is a "no-admission" show.

This is our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Show and each one has drawn a bigger audience every year. Let's make this the biggest Fall Show ever by getting every member to help promote the Show whenever and wherever you can. - - -  
-----

**Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** **Annual Spring Show**

at the Circle Drive Alliance Church Auditorium.

It's "Barbershop Harmony Time" again and it will be our 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual show.  
-----

*This is the final song list for Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Save it!*

### **FALL BARBERSHOP SHOW**

**Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 - 7:30 pm**

**Just A Little Harmony - Chimo Chordsmen**

**I Feel A Song Comin' On**

**Lida Rose**

**Take Me Out To The Ball Game**

**I Love You Truly**

**Hey, Look Me Over**

**Battle Hymn**

**Cabaret**

**Whispering**

**Harmony Collage**

**Let's Get Together Again**