

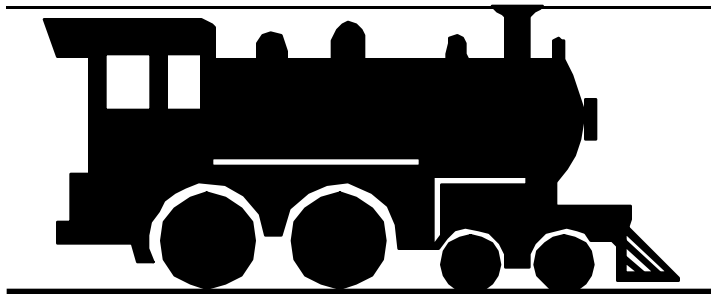
Help needed for International

Murray Phillips, Co-chairman, International 2003

As you know, the barbershopping world is coming to Montreal next summer, when the *Greater Montreal Chapter* will be the hosts to the 65th SPEBSQSA International Convention and Contest.

There are many things that need to be done during the week that the convention and contests take place in Montreal. We are going to need a substantial number of volunteers to get involved with the many activities that take place during the convention. Most jobs will require a few hours of work, while others will require several days of commitment.

If you are willing to volunteer some of your time in Montreal please contact **Alan Kenley** who can be reached at [redacted] and he will graciously accept whatever time you have available and he promises to give you a “volunteer” shirt that you will be proud to wear. ✨



[ED: Reprinted from the last issue of *The Trillium*. Information also available on the web site of the *Montreal Chapter*.]

Take the train to Montreal

By Graham Fagan, Greater Toronto Chapter

I have received a confirmation from VIA Rail that lays out a program straddling the International Convention dates in Montreal next year. It is valid from June 27 - July 10, 2003, over the entire VIA Rail System to/from Montreal, Quebec. The fare applies to maximum of two passengers per purchase.

The discount offered is 35 percent off the full adult economy class. Minimum fare is \$14. There is a five percent discount off the full adult VIA, first-class and sleepers fare.

I started looking for something convenient and cost effective for my own (*MegaCity Chorus*) group and ended up speaking to the right people who took quite an interest in what was happening. The first step was the Windsor-Montreal corridor then they added Ottawa-Montreal then it was opened up system wide in Canada.

Not only is this convenient and cost effective but it is also flexible. Each person/couple can make his/her/their own arrangements from and to ports of their choice at times of the schedule that suit them — as long as they go through Montreal.

The only thing travellers will have to know and state at the time of booking is the **convention promo number of 10016**. ✨

The royal retreat! A CDWI experience

By Bob Pyper, VP chorus director development

As one participant said, “It certainly was an enjoyable and educational experience. It opened my eyes to the background work that goes into being a chorus director. The necessity of paying attention to your director was driven home.”

This observation came from one of the 45 Ontario Barbershoppers who gathered in Guelph on November 16, 2002 as part of the chorus that participated in a *Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive (CDWI)*.

CDWI is a program designed to assist chorus directors to develop rehearsal techniques and conducting skills that will enable them to make the musical experience for the men on the risers the very best possible. Five chorus directors and two trainers gather to discuss significant issues related to directing a chorus. The directors are guided to identify two skills they choose to develop during the afternoon in front of a live chorus.

In Guelph, this practice chorus was created using members of the chorus of the participating directors. Listen to the comments of some of the other member of the chorus.

“I enjoyed being in a bigger chorus of good singers.” “The different styles of directing helped both parties.” “I learned a lot about good sound production as a member of the chorus.”

The chorus members also had two hours of coaching on vocal technique and performance in the morning. Here is how some members described the experience.

“My singing improved.” “I enjoyed the pitch training in the morning.”

The participating directors were **Keith Baldrey**, assistant director of the Guelph chorus; **Dave Litwiller**, director of the Mount Forest chorus; **Jim McConachie**, director of the Owen Sound chorus; **Martin Shelley**, assistant director of the Kitchener-Waterloo chorus; and **Glen Townsend**, director of the Orangeville chorus.

Paul Tamblyn and **Bob Pyper** led the workshop. The directors gave the workshop a 93.4 percent satisfaction rating. Some of them described the experience this way.

“An excellent feature was being able to bring our chorus members to the school. It will certainly improve my chorus by this experience.” “I have received so much this weekend.” “It was an excellent experience.”

Our thanks go out to the members of the Guelph Chapter who took such pride in making the day flow smoothly.

An additional special feature of the day was the co-ordination of the CDWI with the *OSCaRS* at the same location. We all enjoyed the camaraderie shared over lunch and the parade of quartets at the end of the day. Thanks to **Chuck Alexander** and **Paul Tamblyn** for providing the leadership to make this combined event possible.

Some more good news! Ontario district is planning two more CDWI opportunities in 2003, one in March and one in November. To be involved in one of these workshops contact **Bob Pyper** your V.P. chorus director development. Talk to Bob to arrange for a CDWI to be held in your area. He will be delighted to hear from you. ✨