

Our Perspective of Montreal

By Amber (14), Braedon (12), Janine (10)
and Connor Sziklasi (8)

Awesome! Music-ful! Exciting! Amazing! That about sums it up! Those five boring hours in the car paid off. Being our first International convention, we weren't sure what to expect. "So many people!" Connor's eyes were huge as we walked into the auditorium.

"The shows that took place in there were unbelievable! My favourite parts of the shows were *North Metro's cowgirl performance and the AIC show*. Especially *Acoustix's theme-song medley*." — **Janine**.

"My favourite performance had to have been TNL when they were competing. Seeing my Dad on stage with my brother was so unbelievable! I was so jealous!" — **Amber**

"My perspective was different. Although I saw a lot of what the other three saw, I also saw a lot more than them," **Braedon**, our proud *Yoda* states. "It was kind of neat to go to the rehearsals and it was awesome being Yoda and the *Mouse* on stage. Once the curtain opened — the ODOUR! It was HORRIBLE! But, aside from the odour, I really enjoyed being on stage!

"As for the stage fright, it wasn't too bad. I was kind of nervous seeing all the people at first, but after that I was fine. What scared me the most was the odour. I enjoyed those rides on the Yoda levitation device.

"I'd like to thank **Jim Boyes** for helping to teach me the force, and **Steve Armstrong** and **Dave McEachern** for giving me the opportunity to be on the International stage with the best group of guys ever!"

"My favourite memory was my daddy coming in second place. Hopefully, one day, I'll be up there with him. I really enjoyed *FRED* when they sang one of their new songs to me and my Mum during the midnight madness." — **Connor**

"I liked meeting a bunch of Barbershoppers from all over the world. I even got to talk with **Mike Lawton** of *Revival*." — **Janine**

We all enjoyed *Freestyle*, *FRED* and *Four Voices* doing the mic testing Saturday night.

"I never realized how many people were involved in Barbershop. Probably my most memorable moment was seeing everyone at the end of the International convention stand up and sing together. I'm glad we're part of SPEBSQSA and like they said in Montreal, "Let's hope we get many more people involved in this beautiful singing community," (or something like that)." — **Amber**

We're all looking forward to next year in Louisville, and hope it's just as good, if not better, than Montreal. ✨



Great Eh-Team, Eh? ✨

A BIG THUMBS UP

to all of the volunteers from Ontario at the Montreal International convention. This included members of the *Ontario District* and their spouses, as well as *Sweet Adeline* and *Harmony Inc.* members from Ontario and their spouses. When Donna and I went to the orientation meeting on Wednesday evening it appeared that nearly half the volunteers were from Ontario.

Way to go! The "Eh-Team" sure did well!

Congratulations. And, weren't those neat shirts that we received? Shirts that money couldn't buy anywhere (although they do turn pink). ✨

Hospitality Plus

By Chuck Alexander, District VP Music & Performance

While most of the attendees at the International convention stayed at hotels in downtown Montreal, a group from Huntsville, London, and Barrie chapters, along with others from chapters in Rochester, New York, Ohio and Michigan, arrived with their trailers, RVs and motorhomes, to stay at *Parc Mont Laval* in the north west corner of Montreal.

Our hostess, **Diane Bourgeois**, knowing that we were all attending the same convention, located everyone in the same section of the park. It made for great hospitality and social gatherings along with some singing, of course.

Arriving early, I set out to find the fastest and most economical way of getting down to the centre of Montreal. Diane went to all the trouble of contacting tour bus operators as well as public transit on our behalf. We ended up using the local train service (similar to GO Transit but their trains are electric). It required a drive of less than ten minutes to the station, free parking, an all day service schedule, all for a cost of just over \$3 a trip. The final stop, Gare Central (like Union Station) was located underground behind the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth hotel.

While on a train one morning, we ran into a couple who were on the *Montreal Convention Team* and who had lived in Laval and knew of the park. We told them of everything the park had done for us and in appreciation, this couple arrived at the park on Saturday morning to present Diane and her staff with a large fruit basket on behalf of the Montreal Convention Team.

It is occurrences like this that make me proud to be a member of the greatest organization in the world.

Thanks *Montreal Convention Team* for a great week

Thanks *Parc Mont Laval* for a great stay. ✨