



What a Contest!

The results from International Competition are in and our Region 26 representatives did us proud! The Chorus finals had us on the edge of our seats as it was a Canadian finish with North Metro taking the gold medal and Lions Gate the silver. The crowd went wild with approval, showing their true Canadian spirit!

Congratulations to:

Quartets:

- Glow** - 15th Place
- No Strings** - 27th Place

Choruses:

- Lions Gate** - 2nd Place and the Audience Choice Award for Most Entertaining Chorus
- Rhythm of the Rockies** - 17th Place



Save the Date

2017

- November 18** - Alberta Heartland Show, Edmonton
- November 19** - Battlefords Blend Chorus Show, North Battleford, SK
- December 13** - Peace Arch Chorus Show, Surrey, BC

2018

- April 20** - YWIH Workshop, Langley, BC
- May 3 - 6** - Regionals, Surrey
- June 2** - Chinook Winds Show
- Chorus Garden Party, Calgary**
- October 15-20** - Internationals in St. Louis, Missouri

Hear Us ROAR!

What does winning silver at Sweet Adelines International in 2017 mean? Well, beyond the pride (yes, pun intended from lions or should I say the lionesses of Lions Gate Chorus), beyond the bling of the medal(s), beyond the rush of winning itself, and beyond the ringing, the zinging, the matching of chords and the technicalities of tone, beyond the sequins, the hair up-dos, and red lipstick #2 smiles, there is, perhaps, a deeper meaning... a deeper message.

In our song choices, we hoped to transfer the message of harmony - of humility in love, of appreciation, of good sassy fun, and the mere dissemination of joy. And in a world that seems to be going terribly wrong, Lions Gate does indeed pride itself in being able to share a message of community, of seeking unity and acceptance... a message of love.



So, in theme with our finals package, we would like to believe that our winning of the Most Entertaining Chorus Award meant a little bit more... perhaps singing in togetherness can ring yet another chord and light a torch of harmony through which all of us in Sweet Adelines can do great good.

And yes, lest tones get too serious (or for that matter over-sung in minor key), it should be said that we also had one heck of a lot of fun!

*Lions Gate Chorus
2018 International Silver Medalists, and recipients of the Audience Choice Award for Most Entertaining*





Viva Las Vegas - Oh What a Week We Had!

We Came, We Sang, We Cheered!

Frenzy! may not have been in the quartet competition but they stayed VERY busy!

Frenzy! you have been the Queens Extraordinaire! If it was possible to be everywhere at once, that was Frenzy! Some of their highlights included singing on FOX News, hosting the Coronet Club Reception, performing (for the first time ever!) at the Coronet Club Show, and crowning the new Queens of Harmony, Lustre!

One of their most memorable moments was when they performed their amazing swan set. "As part of our Swan Set we had about 120 people in our "Village" on stage with us. Our Village was made up of friends, family, chorus members, past-quartet members, coaches - the people who have helped, inspired, taught, and supported us along the way. Many were at home watching, and it was pretty cool to have this many people behind us to help with our last song! We love you!"

And Region 26 loves you right back!



“Our Glowing Light is Still Burning Brightly”

On October 29, Glow Quartet spent a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon together, and we want to let everyone know of our future plans.

We are officially retiring from the competition circuit. Nicole, our beautiful lead, is going to take some needed time for total vocal rehabilitation. The other 3 of us – Kelly, Emma & Sandy – are free agents

But Glow, as we are now, will still be getting together on occasion to sing and hang out, and we are still open to doing gigs and chorus shows, and, of course, to sing at Emma & Josh’s wedding next summer.



We appreciate the love and support from our friends, fans, families & choruses. We particularly want to thank our significant others – Tim, Kevin, Rob & Joshua – and our main coaches this year, Tim & Steve. And although we may not be glowing on the competition stage anymore, our glowing light is still burning brightly.



Like the Phoenix, a New Chorus Arises

City of Gardens Chorus celebrated 50 years of being a Sweet Adelines Chorus in May of this year. On August 1, 2017 we took the plunge and became **PACIFIC EDGE CHORUS**. We feel it brings with it a new vitality and energy to take us into the next exciting years harmonizing, performing and competing. Look out World !!!

Our first endeavour is a Membership Drive comprising of 6 weeks of vocal lessons and introducing prospective members to Chorus Life . We are half way through and all very excited to have so many new faces and voices on the risers. Thirty -one women have had their eyes opened to



our style of 4-part harmony. Aren’t they lucky? They have learned vocal skills, experienced ringing chords, learned about Regional and International Competitions and are invited to qualify then sing on stage in October. At week three, we still have 19 people looking forward to Tuesday evenings in Langford with Pacific Edge Chorus. Thinking positive thoughts.

Cheers, Fran Errington
President. Pacific Edge Chorus
Passionate about Harmony!!



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



An Interview
with ROTR's
Vickie Walter
by Stephanie Ball

The White Spruce City Chorus New Musical Director Danita Braun

Danita has been with the White Spruce City Chorus coming into her 4th year. She has various skills, and education has been a huge part of her life. She is passionate to learn and teach much more. Music has been a seriously essential part of her joy of living from the start. One of Danita's core life values is to 'educate and be educated.' She says she has read over 50 books on the topic of education alone, and somewhere along the way she decided to homeschool her three boys from K to 12. She is currently working through courses on the following: music arranging, directing, creative writing, playwriting, story telling, voice acting, and first-century Christianity. And of course, she wants to read all the 'classics' before she dies. Her life goals are to encourage and inspire others to dig deeply into LIFE.



The White Spruce City Chorus New Assistant Director Caitlin Ceaser.



Caitlin teaches Grade 6, and Music 1 & 2 at Immaculate Conception School. She is a certified music teacher with a Bachelor of Music in Education, and a Diploma in Secondary Teacher Education from

the University of Victoria. She was introduced to Sweet Adelines through a Young Women in Harmony chorus, sponsored by Westcoast Harmony. Caitlin sang with YWIH from 2006 – 2011, including Young Women in Harmony Internationals in Calgary in 2007. She has been a member of White Spruce City Chorus since Fall of 2015.

A First Timer's Experience

A year ago, Vickie Walter had no idea that in a few short months she'd be performing at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Vickie discovered Rhythm of the Rockies Chorus in Calgary last year, and she hasn't looked back since. Vickie didn't waste any time after she passed her audition. She joined the motivational team and became Rhythm's official cheerleader (and comedian) right away.

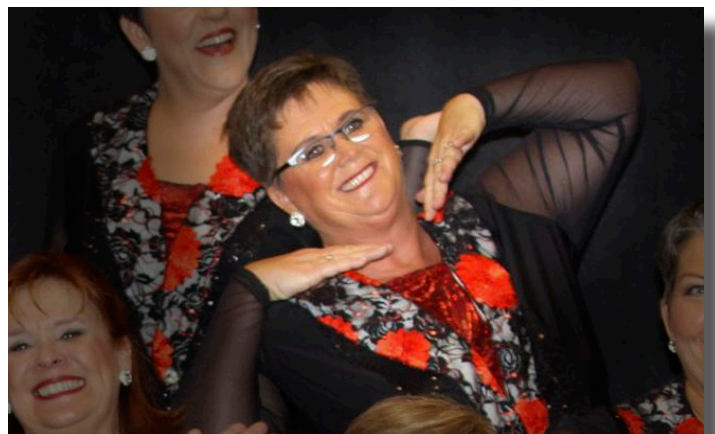
"I have always been a motivator, everywhere I go."

Having never been in a singing competition before, Vickie was a little nervous. On the day of the semi-finals competition, Vickie asked one of her riser mates for some guidance on calming her nerves. The advice she received was great, and she didn't feel anxious at all... until the middle of the first song.

"My cheek started to twitch," she remembers – and we all know what the feels like! "I took a deep breath when I could, and I relaxed again,"

Thankfully the twitchy cheek didn't make a second appearance and Vickie had a fantastic time on stage.

"I loved the whole competition –before, during and after," she says. "I look forward to many years with [Rhythm of the Rockies], and I'm enjoying the new friends I have made."





Marlene Eppy FUND

As We Enter the Season of Giving...

The Five W's of the Marlene Eppy Memorial Fund

WHO was Marlene Eppy? Marlene was a long-time member of Sweet Adelines International, director of Gateway Chorus and Director of Music Activities for Region 26. The Marlene Eppy Memorial Fund was established in her memory.

WHAT is the goal of the Fund? This fund's main goal is to provide support for the future of Sweet Adelines – young women in Region 26.

WHERE does the money from the Fund go? The funds are disbursed to applicants who need assistance for creating a Young Women in Harmony workshop, providing music or costuming for singers, providing transportation, supplying materials for groups in schools, churches, etc.

WHEN can Choruses and individuals make donations to this fund? Donations can be made anytime through e-transfers to finregion26@gmail.com or personal cheques. Contact Susan Dumas at sdumas3255@gmail.com for more information.

WHY donate to the Fund? There are many ways that these funds can help by instilling the love of 4 part harmony and possibly developing future Sweet Adelines.

YAY Quartet Has Brush With the Stars

On May 25, 2017, YAY Quartet was privileged to be the opening act of the one and only Jay Leno at the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino in Calgary. They shared pizza with Mr Leno and sang and entertained the crowd wonderfully! Vocal Motion is very proud of Judy, Alex, Mae and Robyn. "Thanks so much to Jay Leno and to the crew at the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino for making us feel like stars."



YAY Quartet on stage at the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino



This Just In...

Our 2018 Region 26 theme is...

FUSION!

That's right, so there's no

'con**FUSION**'

starting January 1, 2018 our official theme is...

FUSION!

2018 is going to be fantastic!

Thanks to Stacey Rose, Region 26 Marketing Coordinator extraordinaire for designing our new fantastic logo!

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a business in women's services, books, jewellery, bookkeeping or virtual assistance? These are a few examples of the types of businesses we want to help with advertising!

Two issues - 1/4 page - \$50, 1/2 page - \$95
Four issues - 1/4 page - \$80, 1/2 page - \$155
(Design fees are separate)

Please email mapleleafexpress@gmail.com for a rate sheet and to place an order.



An Interview with Lions Gate's Cammi MacKinlay

by Stephanie Ball

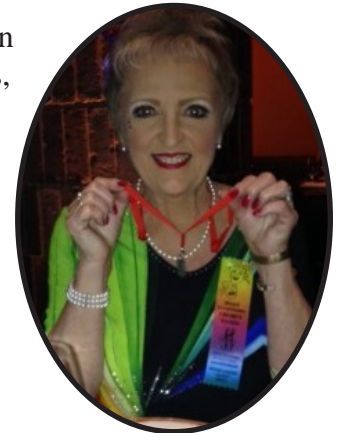
What Made this Experience So Different? - Words of Wisdom from a Contest Sage

Having sung with Lions Gate Chorus for almost 32 years, and having the longest continuous tenure, I am in the lucky position of having been on the international stage 13 times with the chorus! Our climb up the ladder from near last the first two times to second place this year (and a top five placement each year since 2007) has been steady under Sandy's masterful direction, and while each time has been unique for different reasons, this one felt easier somehow, with the chorus moving as a team from start to finish.

Even though we had 20 women who had never sung on the international stage with us before, almost a quarter of the chorus, they injected such an energy and commitment into the group that it felt like they had

always been there! We were all so well prepared that when it came time to sing both sets, there were no nerves – just excitement!

I truly felt emotionally detached from the results, focusing instead on two memorable entertaining performances and that also made a difference to how I approached the competition emotionally. I don't think I personally could have done any better! For me, everything happened perfectly as planned. And that's an amazing feeling to have when you step off the stage!



(Editor's Note - Region 26 is very grateful for everything Cammi does for us and for Sweet Adelines International. Cammi, you are a true ambassador for us all!)

SPIRIT OF 26 NOMINATIONS

It's never too early to start thinking about who your chorus would like to nominate for the prestigious Spirit of 26 award. This award is presented to the nominees deemed most characteristic of the exceptional Sweet Adeline in each chorus. Each prospective or chartered chapter of our region is invited to submit one nominee.

The Spirit of 26 winners will be recognized at the annual 1st Nite celebration during the Canadian Maple Leaf Region 26 Convention in Surrey.

The region 26 Regional Executive Committee would love to see 100% participation in this nomination process. So, don't wait - start thinking about who you would like to see being recognized by their peers.

Updated nomination forms and information will be posted on the regional website in January 2018.

Joanne Johnson
Awards and Recognition/Spirit of 26
Prospective Chorus Liaison

Your chorus nominee:

- Serves her chapter and region to the best of her abilities, solely for the love of the organization
- Is in good standing with her chorus or prospective chorus.
- Takes an active role at chapter level
- Has excellent attendance records at rehearsals, performances and fund raising activities
- Serves in leadership roles administratively and/or musically
- Willingly takes on responsibilities and generously donates her skills when required
- Shows keen interest in chapter affairs, respecting and supporting decisions made by Chorus Board/ Management Team or Music Staff
- Demonstrates superior dependability and "follow through"
- Believes in the importance of her personal marketing responsibility to present her chorus and the organization in the best and most positive way to the general public
- **Proudly exemplifies the best of Sweet Adelines!**

Gone But Not Forgotten...

“Sing again, with your dear voice revealing a tone of some world far from ours, where music and moonlight and feeling are one.”

~Percy Bysshe Shelley

Sadly we have received notification that the following former members of Region 26 have passed away:

Dorothy Hayes - Peace Arch Chorus

Vel Johnson - Westcoast Harmony Chorus

Susan Peel - Former member and big supporter of Alberta Gold Chorus

Candy Smith - Pacific Mist Chorus

Our hearts go out to their families and chorus families. Your voices will continue to be heard and your songs sung.

Celebrating Dorothy Hayes – Peace Arch Chorus by Jude Goodwin

Family, friends, and Peace Arch Chorus gathered October 26, 2017 to celebrate Dorothy Hayes's life. It was a joyous evening of stories, songs and great fellowship. Peace Arch Chorus performed one of her favourite songs, Amazing Grace, from their repertoire and when the room joined in, the resonance surely reached Heaven.

Dorothy Hayes joined a newly formed Peace Arch Chorus in 1975 and remained a member for over 45 years. The chorus awarded Dorothy a lifetime membership. This is especially remarkable since she was a retiree when she joined! Born in 1910, Dorothy lived until just before her 107th birthday.

Dorothy believed the challenges of part-singing and sight-reading helped her keep young. She maintained that taking a lively interest in life is important for everyone. “You’ve got to keep active and participate,” she said. “You have to be part of things - that’s how you get to know people. I don’t want to sit and watch TV all the time.”

One of the highlights of Dorothy’s 90’s decade was a trip to Toronto to see Niagara Falls and attend a North Metro Chorus performance. Dorothy was in awe of June Dale and her achievements with North Metro Chorus. As a birthday gift, friends Sue Gibson and Wenda Bonshor surprised her with the trip. On the night when North Metro was having their show, June Dale was told that Dorothy would be present in the audience. With perfect timing, June stopped the chorus halfway through the show and acknowledged Dorothy’s presence. Dorothy was stunned! June asked her to stand up and give a wave and she received a standing ovation from the audience. Afterwards, Dorothy turned to her friends and said, “What a surprise that June Dale knew my name!” It was a magical night for both her and her friends.

At her celebration of life, Peace Arch Chorus was pleased to be presented with a Dorothy Hayes

Memorial Award of Excellence.

This is to be kept within the chorus and awarded during their annual retreat. The chorus mascot from Dorothy’s active years has been revived and can be seen next to the award in this picture.



Vel Johnson



The group picture is from 2009 when Peace Arch Chorus won gold at the Regionals in Calgary. They presented Dorothy with her medal after they returned home.

While the Cat's Away...

Although we all wished we could be with our Region 26 sisters in Vegas for the Sweet Adelines International Competition, many of us stayed at home glued to the webcast. In some cases, being that our Directors were away, members turned rehearsals into webcast viewing parties (like we needed a reason to have a party!) We thought it would be fun to find out just what our Region 26 members did while the “cat” was away!

“More than a dozen Westcoasters made the trip to Vegas in a non-contest year to join the Frenzy Village on stage at the MGM Grand in a fabulous rendition of “Higher and Higher.” Together, we closed Frenzy’s swan set, finishing their year as 2017 International Quartet Champions. Frenzy left the stage with the promise of much more to come—and we at Westcoast can’t wait. We love you, Anne! We love you, Frenzy! Higher and higher you go!” ...*West Coast Harmony Chorus*



“While we had individuals watching webcasts of International and keeping the rest of us informed, we didn’t have an event for it. Next time we will because we were pretty pumped with the great Region 26 results!” ...*Battlefords Blend Chorus*

“Our Director Maja was in Vegas so we gathered together at our Assistant Director Cynthia’s house on our rehearsal night to watch the Harmony Classic. Of course there was plenty of food, laughter, and singing as we watched the choruses perform. We were also waiting for the appearance

of Maja and the Harmonycatz Quartet as they made our colourful donation to the webcast! The afternoon of the chorus finals found us at a member’s birthday party in the basement huddled around a small laptop watching and cheering with all the other Canadians on the planet!”

...*Chinook Winds Show Chorus*



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The *Maple Leaf Express* (MLX) is produced quarterly on the 21st of January, April, July, and October. Submissions deadline is the 1st of January, April, July and October unless otherwise stated.

Submissions Policy: Article submissions are accepted at the discretion of the MLX Advisory Staff. Articles and images may be subject to editing and may be held for publication in a future issue of the *Maple Leaf Express*. Questions or concerns regarding this submission policy can be directed mapleleafexpress@gmail.com.

An RES Story

by Danita Braun

...because you often don't get to know what is going on in the hearts of the ladies that you sing alongside...

*Maybe I should skip the workshop
and head back home...*

The thought blew through my mind as I disconnected my phone. After arriving in Edmonton for the Sweet Adeline's Regional Educational Symposium an hour earlier, I had received a phone call from my hubby. He had just learned that his mom had 'lots of evidence of additional cancer' after an emergency mastectomy several days earlier. In 8 straight hours of driving I could be right back home again to support and comfort him and his mom. Of course, my Sweet Darling had urged me to stay in Edmonton and 'enjoy my weekend.' Sigh.

The weekend workshops were rich, deep, and full to overflowing with brilliant musical information and inspiration. After only 3 years swimming in Sweet Adeline World, I continued to be shocked by the quality interactive teaching available to me, a regular gal from Prince George, B.C., Canada. And...I had to revise my reserved opinion of the whole 'Queen Scene' as the Frenzy Ladies completely blew themselves flat out in time, energy, expertise, and availability on behalf of Region 26. Even though a cloud of sadness and the need-to-be-home hovered around my periphery throughout the day, the tug to participate and drink deeply of the information and fellowship was completely irresistible.

*I wonder if the people standing beside me can
see any evidence of the tug-o-war inside me? Do
they see the sadness and turmoil, or just another
nameless smiling singer?*

As the evening's activities drew near, we contemplated singing a song for the group. I had been assured that this event was a 'safe place' for the 'not so accomplished' to sing, to have fun, and enjoy large group fellowship. In the spirit of participating with all my heart, I said I would sing on the condition that we practice at least once. We were missing a tenor and as the evening's activities progressed and we had not found a volunteer to fill in, I gratefully assumed the idea had been scrapped. And then I heard murmuring behind me and one of the four Prince Georgers tapped my shoulder and said, 'I have a tenor right here who will sing, and right now would be a great time. What do you think, Danita? Are you up for it? Let's do it.'

*Seriously? Can this place REALLY be THAT safe?
That 4 backwooders can take the stage, without
practice? And just sing ... for the joy of the love
of music in harmony? Sure, it was safe for*

*Patty and her sister to have some fun, but she's,
well, she's 'Patty', a well-known educator, and...*

I nodded and we went up. We looked at each other and after a moment's stunned silence, I realized that 'I' was the one to start this bass-driven tune. 'Loo, loo, loo...'

*I must look like a total idiot. When do I breath???
I can't remember a single thing that I learned today!
This must sound sooooo bad ...*



But I looked out at the sea of faces and there were smiles, everywhere! Can't they hear properly? And seriously, cameras? Oh, No! I see someone videotaping! But the warmth of the group was reaching out to me and I started to relax. Then Marilyn gave some kind of a signal and EVERYONE started to sing with us. I heard something that sounded to me like a 1000 voice choir.

Can you feel the love tonight?

The music became so big, and beautiful, and yet so gentle and sweet. It washed over me and tenderly moved through me like a cleansing, healing rainfall, taking with it my sadness and dark spots, and leaving me feeling fresh and whole. And loved. And a part of something so much bigger than me and my stuff.

*And I wept. And I wept.
Right there on that little stage.
Me, with my two other backwoods girls
and one generous volunteer.
And it was OK.*

Thank you, ladies. Thank you for working so hard to produce a living, learning space and time...a safe place where music and relationships and hearts can grow and flourish. I appreciate each of you and your sacrificial work.

Danita Braun is the newly appointed Musical Director of White Spruce City Chorus in Prince George, BC.

Let's Chat

With Kim and Steph

Hello Everyone! We hope you are enjoying this issue of the *Maple Leaf Express* or as we like to call it, the MLX. We are having a great time putting it together and we want to hear from you. We can be reached anytime at mapleleafexpress@gmail.com. Our "Let's Chat" column is kind of a catchall for all the bits and pieces that we think are amazing but just can't figure out where else to put them. Keep reading because you just never know what you're going to find!

Applause, Applause, Applause!

Congratulations to Battlefords Blend Chorus. On October 20, 2017 they celebrated thirty five years as a chartered member of Sweet Adelines International. Region 26 wishes them all the best and is looking forward to the next 35!

Also planning their 35th anniversary celebrations next year is Prairie Gold Chorus. Watch for news about their anniversary show soon!

Next IES and Other Important Dates

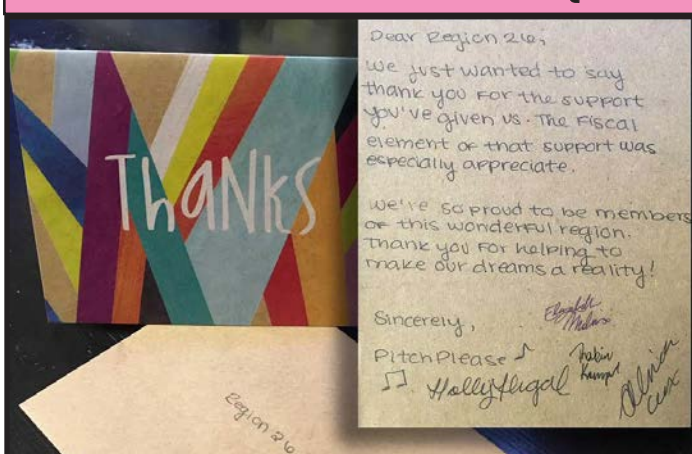
IES is planned again for July/August 2020. You'll find the current long-range education planning calendar on page 6 of the April 2017 Pitch Pipe.

2017 International Contest Results

Looking for the results from the 2017 contest? Visit <https://sweetadelines.com/competitionconvention/internationalcompetition/>

Until next time, remember to keep those ideas and emails coming! Kim and Steph

A Word of Thanks from Pitch Please Quartet





Celebrating 35 Years
Battlefords Blend Harmony Chorus
 in concert with guest performer



Sunday November 19, 2017 @ 2 PM
Dekker Centre
General Admission
Tickets \$35 (GST included)

Tickets available at the Dekker Centre Box Office
www.dekkercentre.ca 306-445-7700

Fun Fact

Region 26 has 40 registered quartets, from A (A Touch of Gold) to Z (Zenergy Quartet).

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Southern Accord Chorus - Southern Accord Chorus warming up before going on stage. After we warmed up away from the main stage, we gave an impromptu performance for the picnickers in the park before we went to the opening ceremony. Our chorus was chosen to perform O Canada (Minshall Arr.) and Canada My Home (Joey Minshall/Yvonne Meyer) for the Official Opening Ceremonies for the City Of Lethbridge Canada 150 Celebrations held at Henderson Lake.



Vocal Motion Chorus - In May we hosted the Calgary Choruses End of Year celebration and our theme was Canada 150. We called it the "Celebrate 'EH-tion Chorus Party". It was a great time with over 180 in attendance from the Calgary SAI chorus as well as the BHS choruses. We sang, ate, drank, laughed and sang some more! You can see in the photo above how much fun we had!



City of Gardens Chorus - City of Gardens tour leaving Fishguard Wales hotel just before our ferry trip to Ireland. Great way to spread Canadian cheer! (Group photo above.)

Westcoast Harmony Chorus - Westcoast Harmony Chorus drew large and appreciative crowds on Canada Day 150, as they travelled by bus around the Lower Mainland and Vancouver for their latest sing-a-thon. They entertained seniors in Surrey and Maple Ridge, families at city events in Maple Ridge and Port Moody, and shoppers at Oakridge Centre in Vancouver. (Group photo on the left.)



Rhythm of the Rockies - Performed at Heritage Park - Calgary for the citizenship ceremony where 105 new Canadians from 31 countries took their oaths. With bagpipes blowing and train horns tooting in the background, Rhythm of the Rockies performed TRAIN or shine. Did we keep pitch? Only our director Mary Hager knows for sure. (See train photo below.)



Arbutus Sound Chorus - Arbutus Sound Chorus spent Canada Day entertaining the crowds in in Secht, BC. (Group photo above.)

