

REPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
1987 FEBRUARY 16

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

TO: MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Madam and Gentlemen:

Burnaby's Sister-City, Loughborough, England, is a well-known international choral centre which will be hosting its Fourth "Singing Week" from 1987 July 26 to August 2. The Loughborough Singing Week is held once every three years in association with the British Federation of Choirs as part of the European Federation of Choirs Cities Program.

Choirs participating in the Singing Week receive expert assistance from accomplished choral conductors from throughout Europe who demonstrate vocal and conducting techniques plus work with individual choirs on arrangements. The town and neighbourhood of Loughborough has a number of excellent churches and halls where the choirs participate in afternoon concerts including the medieval parish church of All Saints and the historic town hall.

Loughborough is home to a university and a teachers' college. Choirs participating in the Singing Week are housed in residences on the college campus, which is near the centre of town.

The Burnaby Teachers' Choir has been invited to participate in this year's Singing Week. This experience will provide members with an excellent professional and personal opportunity both musically and culturally. Discussions have been initiated to have the choir perform at an official function at British Columbia Government House in London as part of the proposed choir tour.

The involvement of the choir, comprised predominantly of Burnaby residents, will help to strengthen the bond between the Sister-Cities of Burnaby and Loughborough and promote good public relations for both the school district and the municipality. Choir members will act as ambassadors of good will for Burnaby and B.C. and could possibly establish contacts that would be helpful to the newly established Centre for the Performing Arts Committee, which is looking into the establishment of a performing arts centre for Burnaby. The participation of the choir could also lead to other exchanges including student band and choir cultural exchanges.

The Burnaby Teachers' Choir tour is proposed to leave Burnaby on July 18, returning on August 2. Members of the choir are prepared to pay a significant portion of the costs to participate in the Loughborough Singing Week.

I would recommend that the Burnaby Teachers Choir be designated as the official representative of the Municipality of Burnaby to our Sister-City of Loughborough during the annual Loughborough Singing Week, 1987 July 26 to August 2, and that Council provide financial assistance to the Burnaby Teacher's Choir, contributing towards the expense of their participation in this international singing event.

Respectfully submitted,

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William A. Lewarne
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