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**Sunday Morning, July 11, 2004  
SCC Wins Elmer Iseler Award!**

For the second time the Saskatoon Children's Choir has won the Elmer Iseler Award for best performance of a Canadian piece at the festival for their rendition of 'Keewaydin'. This caps a very exciting week for all of us – and once again congratulations to everyone for a job well done.

The Gala Closing was simply magnificent. The audience and the performers were in a mood to celebrate and this they did with gusto. It was an amazing evening of song, but the mass choirs were especially exciting. The ceremonies peaked with the presentation of the two major awards, the Elmer Iseler to SCC – and the Choir of the World at Kathaumixw, which was awarded by the jury to 'Vesna', the Russian children's choir. The concert concluded with all the choirs singing 'Hymn to Freedom' before a standing audience that had joined hands together. All in all, a very moving evening.

To put the achievement of your choir in perspective; Vesna is a choral school, where the children rehearse and study music together every afternoon and the New Zealand choir is nationally auditioned to the highest standards. Yet our Saskatoon singers are seen by the public and the adjudicators to be in the same rank as these. Kudos to Phoebe, Michelle and all our choristers.

Our week is now at an end. The choir is getting a well deserved sleep in (breakfast is 9:00 am!) before packing up to leave for Vancouver by 2:00 pm. Many will be 'deviating' with their families for holidays – and many more will be staying at the Vancouver Aquarium tonight. Finally, a special thanks to our chaperones: Kathy, Jean, Dora and Verna. Long after our young people have gone to bed, these four have still been putting in the time to get ready for the next day. These tours couldn't happen without their dedicated efforts and rest assured your children have been in loving, caring hands.



*Getting ready to fly!*

Take care – and everyone have a great holiday!