

Montreal, Site of the 1999 Annual Meeting: The Next Best Thing to Paris in the Springtime!

Linda Armitage

Local Arrangements

CBE 42nd Annual Meeting

Margaret Levene and her committee have put together an excellent academic program for the 1999 annual meeting, but what does Montreal have to enhance that program?

For starters, Montreal is a thriving metropolis with a European flavor. Although it is the second largest French-speaking city outside France, English is widely spoken. Voted one of the world's most livable cities, it is considered very safe—probably one of the few cities in North America that can boast a vibrant community in the downtown core at 3:00 am. You can wander the streets in the vicinity of your hotel at will.

Montreal celebrated its 350th birthday in 1992; cobblestone streets, gray stone buildings, monuments, museums, and churches in

“Old Montreal” provide a window on the history of this great city. Its early development as a fur-trading center was due to its geographic uniqueness: an island (with a mountain in its midst) in the middle of a river that flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Visitors can choose an organized walking tour of Old Montreal or explore on their own; a 20-minute walk from the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, where the meeting will occur, will bring you to this area (via Chinatown if you like).

Inclement weather is unlikely, but if it does occur (or, if you are a shopaholic), you will want to know that 29 kilometers (18 miles) of tunnels and metro (subway) lines are linked to form Montreal's underground city with boutiques, department stores, theaters, and restaurants. You don't have to venture outside the hotel to access this network.

Name your pleasure, and we can send you on individual specialty tours—museums, specialty bookstores, antique shops, second-hand book stores, boutiques, off-beat bookstores, theaters, chain bookstores, churches. Rumor has it that some delegates might take time to eat between visits to bookstores. Montreal has also been designated (by the Canadian Automobile Association and American Automobile Association) the gastronomic capital of Canada; our eateries offer a smorgasbord of tantalizing local and ethnic specialties.

Last, but not least, the favorable US exchange rate against Canada's looney makes a bargain that's hard to beat; you get 40% more “joie de vivre” in Montreal for the American dollar.

See you all in Montreal.