

THE RACING CITY CHORUS

By Jenna Caputo



You may have seen The Racing City Chorus vocalizing around the Capital District or marching in one of the many parades in the area. A 30-member men's cappella chorus that sings four-part harmony in the barbershop music style, The Racing City Chorus meets regularly to practice, perform, socialize, and have fun! "While a couple of guys have music training, we are primarily amateur singers; we're not accomplished soloists," says member Rusty Senecal. "There is safety in numbers, and we make learning the music easy and fun!"

A community-based, non-profit organization that is a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), a non-profit of approximately 25,000 members worldwide headquartered in Nashville, TN, The Racing City Chorus formed in Saratoga Springs in 1956 when local optometrist Dr. James Cogan and Adirondack Trust banker Paul Rouillard ventured to start a local chorus. The group is now in their 66th year with members from all around the Capital Region and North Country, including a few members who have been singing with the group for 60+ years.



Performing a variety of music selections that include contemporary songs, 50s & 60s hits, selections from the Great American Songbook, patriotic tunes, and holiday selections, the men perform all around the Capital Region throughout the year. And now, they're looking to expand their chorus and are especially interested in welcoming singers from the Clifton Park area—no experience required. In addition to appearing in the Clifton Park 4th of July parade, the men meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at St. Edwards Church on 569 Clifton Park Center Road. There is also a weekly option for rehearsals at the PBA at 5 Blivan Way, Saratoga. Rehearsals are live-streamed for members who have a scheduling conflict, and schedules are flexible—leave when you need to.

Interested singers should call **518-504-SING (7464)** or visit www.RacingCityChorus.org for more information.

HISTORY

VISCHER FERRY INDEPENDENCE DAY

By John L. Scherer, Clifton Park Town Historian

The celebration of Independence Day on July 4 has always been a time for family picnics and outings to honor the birth of our country and to welcome the summer season. At the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century, that magical year 1900 when life seemed slower and carefree, Vischer Ferry was the destination of many area picnickers and tourists.

People came from Schenectady, Albany, Troy, Cohoes, and even New York City to spend a day, a week, a month, or the complete summer in the healthful climate and beautiful surroundings of



Picnickers on the bridge over the sluice-way to the Vischer Mill, Vischer Ferry, July 4, 1891

Vischer Ferry. As quiet 100 years ago as it is today, the village was an ideal spot to escape from the noise and turmoil of the city. The fun way of visiting Vischer Ferry was on the "Kittie West," a small steamer, and come down the Erie Canal. Many a family complete with picnic basket and blanket arrived at the village in this manner to spend a pleasant day.