

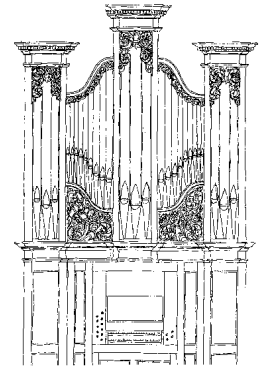


QUARTER NOTES

The Royal Canadian College of Organists
Windsor Centre

Le Collège royal canadien des organistes
Centre Windsor

Website : www.rcco-windsor.com



THE APRIL ORGAN CRAWL IN CHATHAM

We are teaming up with members in Chatham to get an overview of some fine pipe organs in Chatham on Saturday April 27th.

The first stop will be at St. Paul's Congregational Church, 450 Park Ave. West at 12:30 pm.

Next, we will proceed to Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 81 Selkirk St., for 1:30pm.

At 2:30, on to Free Reformed Church, 159 Gregory Dr. East and then to St. Andrew's Unit-

ed Church, 85 William St. South.

Some of the organists at the various churches will give us a quick rundown on the instrument and then we hope those who attend will be able to spend some time at the consoles if they wish and can enjoy the wonderful sounds.

The day will end up at Kelsey's restaurant 804 Richmond St. around 5 pm for dinner and fellowship.

Hope to see you all there!

MARCH 2013



Above is a picture of the Aeolian player organ at Morris Sutton Funeral Home— Don't miss the article on its restoration on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

RCCO EXECUTIVE 2012/2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been an energizing month for me, visiting centres in Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. As Travelling Clinician, I have been struck by the dedication and commitment of leaders of these centres, and of some of the remarkable things they have accomplished. More and more, I am convinced that personal contact and engagement is responsible for increased membership and that these qualities help members develop in their abilities to fulfill their duties as church organists and teachers.

It's reassuring to see other members take on projects and challenges in educating themselves, attending workshops, learning new music and eager to discover new ways of looking at how they present music to their congrega-

tions. I'm reminded of how much we can share with each other, centre to centre. For example, Thunder Bay holds a "choral Thursday" once a year, in which choirs from many churches gather to sing two anthems as a large group, and sing anthems on their own. The idea of a choral festival reinvigorates members of small choirs, and offers the opportunity to know new choral works. It's an idea that had popularity some years ago, but I think worth revisiting. As another example, Victoria Centre held a recital with repertoire oriented to a family audience, in celebration of BC's first Family Day. Pieces on the program had a theme of animals (cat, dog, and squirrel). Several families with young children attended. These centres are very aware of the challenges organists face to-



DAVID PALMER

day in bringing the instrument to the public's attention. We in Windsor Centre should be proud of what we do in this respect—our scholarship program, the upcoming Elder College course on the organ, "Come Sing Messiah" and so on—we have ideas to pass on to these other centres. Let's keep up the innovations!

Warm wishes for a blessed Lent and Easter.

David Palmer

MEMBERS RECITAL

There is still room and time to pack your dancing shoes and dust off that great piece that you have been wanting to learn (or play) and join us for our Member's Recital. You can show off that Easter Prelude you are working on or the reflective Lenten reflection.

We will receive a free-will offering to benefit the Joanne Quimby bursary.

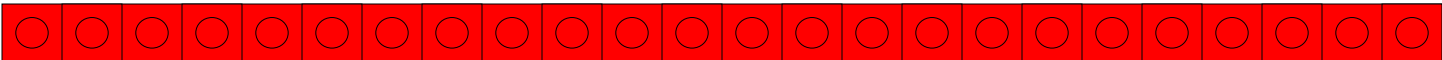
This year we will be at Westminster United Church (Dougall at Tecumseh Avenues in Windsor) on Sunday, March 10, 2013 starting at 4:00 PM. Westminster has a wonderful 1930's Casavant organ with a range of stops from the very soft to the explosive.

Then we will go to Lumberjack for dinner.

Please contact me (at gangalf@live.com) if you wish to be part of the recital.

I am looking forward to seeing you and hearing you there. Dale Burkholder





UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Sunday March 10th 2013 at 4 pm.** Will be our member's recital at Westminster United Church.. Time to pack your dancing shoes and dust off that great piece that you have been wanting to learn (or play) and join us for our Member's Recital. This year we will be at Westminster United Church (Dougall at Tecumseh road in Windsor) on Sunday, March 10, 2013. (see article page 2)
2. **Saturday April 27th** Organ Crawl with the Chatham Centre– see front page for details.
3. **Friday May 31st** Annual General Meeting at St. John's Anglican Church in Leamington.

THE GREAT PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

We are pleased to announce an exciting new initiative in association with Canterbury Elder-College. Developed to increase awareness of the pipe organ and encourage the pursuit of organ playing skills, this three-session course will give participants an opportunity to learn about pipe organ construction and design, to see the inner workings of a newly re-furbished pipe organ, learn about the history of the pipe organ, hear music from different genres of organ repertoire, and have an opportunity to interact with local organists. Individuals with basic piano/keyboard skills will also have a chance to play an organ and be introduced to organ manual and pedal techniques in one-on-one coaching sessions.

Sessions will be held at The Church of the Epiphany, 96 Main Street West in Kingsville on April 30, May 7 and May 14, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm. Instructors include David Palmer, Don Pole, Paul Wharram and Nancy Tapley.

Classes are limited to 25 participants (over the age of 55) and there is a course fee of \$39.55 to cover materials and administration costs. Registrations can be done online at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/canterbury/eldercollege> or by phone at 519-253-3000 x 4944.





POLE and KINGHAM

PIPE ORGANS

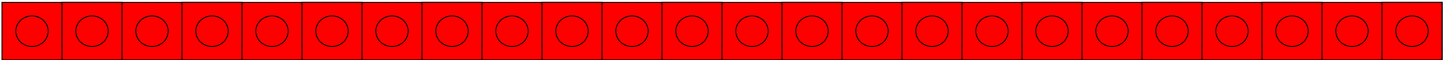
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DO YOU NEED A SUPPLY ORGANIST ?

1. Dale Burkholder (available for weddings, funerals and weekdays) gangalf@live.com
2. Judy Boutin (available for weddings and funerals and weekdays) ajboutin@cogeco.ca

REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP WITH DR. JULIA DAVIDS and the CCC

“Building community through choral singing” and “healthy singing for life” were central themes for the exciting workshop led by Dr. Julia Davids on Sunday, February 3 at All Saints’ Church. Dr. Davids, Music Director of the Canadian Chamber Choir and one of Canada’s rising conducting stars, used many images to illustrate her approach to shaping vowels, to the place of consonants in singing, and offered a wealth of tips on vocal challenges we all face in our choirs. Emphasizing that “vowels carry the sound” and are the essence of diction, she explained the physiology of vowel formation in detail. The Chamber Choir gave an exquisite mini-concert, a preview of the performance they presented the following Tuesday. RCCO Windsor was well represented by choir directors and choir members at the workshop in support of our sponsorship of the event.

David Palmer



JOANNE QUIMBY MEMORIAL BURSARY

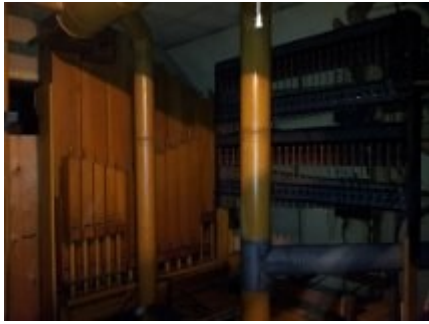
How would you like to improve your skills as an organist? This bursary is available to anyone who does not have a degree in organ and would like to take ten free one-hour lessons designed to improve pedalling, understanding of the more interesting aspects of registration, repertoire and any other area of organ performance that you wish to pursue. We would hope to receive applications no later than May with a view to holding auditions in late May or early June. For further information and an application form please contact me at 519-735-9632 or at ajboutin@cogeco.ca.

We would like to see more organists take advantage of the opportunities available through membership in the Windsor Centre of the RCCO. If you know an organist who would benefit from this bursary but who is currently not a member please contact him (her) on behalf of the Centre. I would be happy to discuss the possibility of qualifying for this award with anyone who might be interested.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME UPDATE

The annual Masterclass was held on Jan. 27 at Essex Christian Reformed Church. All three students – Leah Wilkinson, Marcel Dupuis and Victor Ouyang – were in attendance as well as teachers, David Palmer and Brian Sweetman. The students are all progressing well and expect to play at the College Service preceding the Annual Meeting on May 31 at St. John’s Anglican Church in Leamington.

Application forms for 2013-14 for the Beginning Organ Study Scholarship have now been sent out to local piano teachers. We are already assured of at least two applicants. If you know anyone who is a potential candidate please contact me. The application form is now also available on our webpage at www.rcco-windsor.com. Judy Boutin Director of Scholarships



THE 1924 AEOLIAN PLAYER ORGAN
OPUS 1535 AT MORRIS SUTTON
FUNERAL HOME



In 1924, Windsor's most successful whiskey "exporter", James Cooper, had installed an Aeolian player organ in his Walkerville home, a huge 40 room mansion that dwarfed even Willistead Manor. Player organs were the only way the wealthy could enjoy recorded music with full fidelity. Victrolas were very tinny and scratchy. Music rolls were a big business for pianos and organs. Transcribed music was very popular with all styles of music available. This instrument had the main chambers located in the basement and spoke into the house through grilles in the floor and through tone chutes- large conveyances with a door that could be opened or closed, that led to various rooms.



In 1946, Morris purchased the instrument after Cooper died and the home was torn down. Cooper reportedly paid \$50,000 for it 22 years earlier. Morris contracted Paul Hebert, the Casavant rep for the area to move it to its present location. Most of the 22 rank instrument is located in the third floor attic. There is a hole in its floor that corresponds with a grille in the ceiling of the chapel. There is a 3 rank echo division that is located in the balcony with the console.

I first took notice of the instrument last fall. I noticed that it is featured on our local RCCO website. It was listed as not playable. I once worked briefly as a pipe organ tuner for the London Casavant rep and was curious as to whether it was able to be rescued, or if it was too far decayed. I was given free access to do what I could.

It was dead at the switch. I did not know if it had a dead blower, or if the whole thing was dead. I sealed up a ruptured blower box with a roll of duct tape which allowed some of the pipes to play. After a more proper rebuilding of the blower box, a large cloth-covered box between the blower and the wind conveyance network, steady wind was attained. About two thirds of the stops played and many notes were dead, and the ones that worked were quite out of tune and regulation. Yet, there was a sense of musicality...

Long story short, I spent a few hours fixing things. As of this writing, a ruptured swell engine has been rebuilt and works well. Also, all of the stops now work. The pipes all play, including

all the chimes and harp notes. The couplers all work, as do the 3 combination buttons on each of the two manuals. Even the SF light that indicates the sforzando piston has been turned on now lights up.

The next project is the rebuild of the echo swell engine. A few other issues here and there will be tended to. Then the instrument will be in rather good shape. The leather pouches and reservoirs have been re-leathered in a very professional way at some point between 1924 and now. Possibly during the 60s? That was a big break!

There were over 2,000 Aeolian organs built between 1890 and 1930 and only about 50 or so remain. Most have been “improved” by organ builders through the years. New consoles, additional pipes, change of specification, revoicing, you name it, organs undergo huge personality changes as time goes by. This one has not. Paul Hebert, bless him, moved the instrument **WITHOUT A SINGLE CHANGE** from its original installation condition. The **ONLY** change has been the addition of an electrical transformer, perhaps in the 50s or 60s, for the action power. The original generator with its belt, driven by the blower motor, is still there.

Windsor is fortunate to have such a historically unaltered and functioning instrument. I believe that there are less than 10 Aeolian instruments in this original condition and playability. And how does it sound? Surprisingly good! Yes, it is a residence organ with a chamber voicing. Yes, it does have the orchestral flavour of instruments of the time. It is not the instrument for Bach or the French masters. But the pipework is of good quality, as are the windchests. There is a Clarinet, a free reed stop that sounds absolutely wonderful. It is what it is, and for what it is, it is beautiful.

I am still in the process of continuing the rescue. It has now become a historical restoration. The player unit will be my next big project.

The Morris Sutton people are very proud of the heritage and legacy that this organ carries.

They wish to share it with the community and would be delighted if the instrument would be used for concerts and demonstrations.

Ron Dossenbach

