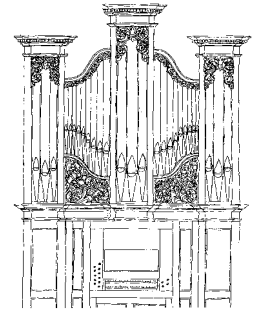




Quarter Notes

The Royal Canadian Collège of Organists *Windsor Essex Centre*
Le Collège Royal Canadien des Organistes *Centre Windsor Essex*



THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS
LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES

Chatham Corner

The Royal Canadian Collège of Organists *Chatham Centre*
Le Collège royal canadien des organistes *Centre Chatham*

Spring, 2019

Upcoming Events

As the days get longer and the sunshine brighter, we're filled with renewed energy and hope that you are as well.

Your executive is moving ahead on the programs planned for the rest of this year.

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza!

It was an exciting morning at St. John's Anglican Church in Leamington! some 23 young people, age 8 and up helped assemble our OrgelKids Opus 1, watched a PowerPoint presentation on the wider world of the pipe organ, and then tried their favourite pieces or improvised on the Casavant at the church. Pizza and juice followed.

Ron Dossenbach has his presentation down to a fine art now, and fully engaged the young people his balloon-on-the-foot-of-the-pipe demonstration and sample pipes taken from the Casavant.

David made a presentation on the Beginning Organ Scholarship Program.

Big thanks go to Ron, and to the Parish of St. John's and organist John Tofflemire for hosting us. We also appreciate volunteer assistance from Dale Burkholder, Jane Ann Callow, Adriana Reynolds,

Ben Schinkel and Michael Sewell.

Please let me know of your news, concerns and interests.

David Palmer, for the Executive

E-mail: dpalmer@uwindsor.ca



Quarter Notes and Chatham Corner

Is published 4 times a year by RCCO
Windsor Essex Centre

Publication Dates are

September 14- (September 1 deadline)

November 18—(November 5 deadline)

March 9—(March 2 deadline)

June 16—(June 2 deadline)

Contact Dale Burkholder
gangalf@live.com to have your events
included in our calendar.

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Upcoming Events from the Chatham Centre

- ♫ The Chatham Centre held a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza on Thursday morning at St. Andrew's United Church.
- ♫ King of the keyboards crawl. A great organ crawl is being planned for Saturday May 4 from 12:30 to 4:30pm in Sarnia ON. For more details contact Nancy Tapley at nancytapley2@gmail.com or 519-354-0463.

This is an amazing presentation of Stainer's, The Crucifixion, which will be presented at 3 p.m.

The 3-manual, 3-chambered 1907 Casavant organ, with Dr. Angus Sinclair on the bench, certainly adds to the experience.

<https://stmarysunitychurch.weebly.com/the-crucifixion.html>



King of the Keyboards Organ Crawl

Saturday, May 4 starting at 12:30 PM

Kings of the Keyboards Crawl – Sarnia, ON

Sponsored by Chatham Centre, RCCO

Featured pipe organs (to be confirmed):

St. Paul's United Church

– 3-manual Hallman (1965);

5 divisions

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

– “4-manual” hybrid (Warren, Woodstock, Casavant, Guilbault-Thérien, Koopmans; 1906-1997)

All Saints Anglican Church

– 2-manual Casavant (1973)

Central United Church

– 3-manual, 3-chambered Casavant (1898 & 1930)

– largest pipe organ in Lambton County, Chatham-Kent, Essex County and Windsor

With or without your sheet music!

4:00 p.m. -- Grand Finale – Dr. Wayne Carroll in 30-minute concert at Central United Church

Admission:

♫ At the door: \$20

♫ Advance tickets: \$17

♫ RCCO members: \$10

♫ Students: Free

For tickets or enquiries, please contact: Ian Mason at sarniapipeorgancrawl@gmail.com; 519-864-1119.





Membership Renewal

deadline May 31

In April, you will all receive notice inviting you to renew your annual membership in the national RCCO. This can be done online.

Please note a major difference this year: in order to continue receiving *Organ Canada* and other journals you may ask for, you must send in your membership fee by May 31. If national office has not received your fee by then, you will no longer receive your publications. This has become necessary because of the increased workload at headquarters in tracing subscriptions and bearing the cost of them without the fees to support the subscriptions.



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Choral Music

Henry Boon has now published two SATB Christmas compositions with Cypress Choral Press in Vancouver.

To see the scores and listen to the recording by the Amadeus choir of Toronto, please go to cypresschoral.com



Organ Crawl—WOW!

Ron Dossenbach

This past November, a very pleasant joint venture by our Windsor Essex Centre and the AGO Detroit Chapter presented itself as a three stop organ crawl in Detroit. This event grew out of a previous visit to the first stop by myself and Henry Boon to a common friend who is a member of the choir at Old St. Mary's Church in Detroit and wanted us to experience their instrument. We all thought the wonderful organs in downtown Detroit could make for a good organ crawl. So we approached the Detroit chapter about it. They said they would look into it.

Beforehand, all had previously heard was that venues selected and arrangements were made for us to be there. With that limited information, it seemed we might be on our own as to learning about the instruments. So I did research on each of the organs, just to be sure. Well, it turned out the Detroit Chapter did do a good deal of preparation beyond simply setting up the itinerary. About 12 from Windsor joined 20 or so Detroit crawlers to reap the benefits of that work. Any of us who wished to play were afforded the opportunity.

1990 Wigton, Old St. Mary's Catholic Church, Greektown

For many years, the large and venerable old Kilgen organ had served the church, but had become unreliable, as well as out of style. The decision was made to procure an entirely new organ. Michigan native Dave Wigton was selected to build what became his magnum opus, completed in 1990. This remarkable and beautiful three manual tracker organ is a true marvel in an ideal acoustical environment. The four second reverberation time adds wonderful warmth to the sound without making intrusions into the clarity of polyphonic music. This was superbly demonstrated by their organist. All styles of organ music are able to be properly rendered on this instrument. Not only was the organist on hand, but the organ builder was as well! He was able to regale us with the story of how the organ came to be. The casework is as good as it gets. Dave saw a grand old tree near his home that was to be removed for a highway expansion. That single tree provided most of the wood for the case, after Dave was required to foray into the lumber business. There are vertical sections over 30 feet long that are uninterrupted single pieces, an almost unheard of feature. Dave's modesty prevented him from his pointing out the artistic woodwork, stile and rail joinery, and carving, which incorporated designs from the building to make the organ blend in, which it most certainly does. There is a Positive division behind the organist which was the first part of the organ to be finished, and which served as a more than adequate accompaniment by itself to services for several months. A beautiful, and perhaps intimidating Trumpet en Chamade graces the case. Up in the choir loft, it is quite piercing, yet, down in the nave, it never sounds too loud. It blends most appropriately with the other stops. It makes a perfect solo for a wedding march. In fact, "appropriate" is the best single word to describe this eclectically designed instrument.

1930 Skinner, Trinity Lutheran Church

The Aeolian Skinner name is as synonymous to American organ building as Casavant is to Canadians. Their sound is always of top quality. But the sound of a Skinner organ, back when Aeolian and Skinner were separate companies before 1931, is a step in tonal quality in a completely different direction. Before the Organ Reform movement took hold in Aeolian Skinner's offerings, Skinner's instruments defined the sound of or-

(Continued on page 8)

Annual General Meeting

Will be held on Friday, May 31

- ❑ 6:00 PM Service
- ❑ 7:00 PM Dinner (the cost was not available at press time)
- ❑ 8:15 PM Annual Meeting at 8:15 pm.

Our host church will be Epworth United Church, 56 Division Street South, Kingsville



Nominations

Nominations are invited for positions on the Executive of the Centre.

These positions will be open as of the Annual General Meeting May 31:

- ☑ Vice-President
- ☑ Secretary
- ☑ Scholarship Chair

We invite your careful consideration to become a part of a moving-ahead Centre of the RCCO.

New approaches are always welcome.

NOMINATIONS

ARE OPEN

Spring Ring

Annual Spring Ring Sunday May 5 starting at 1:00 PM at Epworth United Church. Highlighting our friends Silver Bells and the Epworth Church handbell choir.



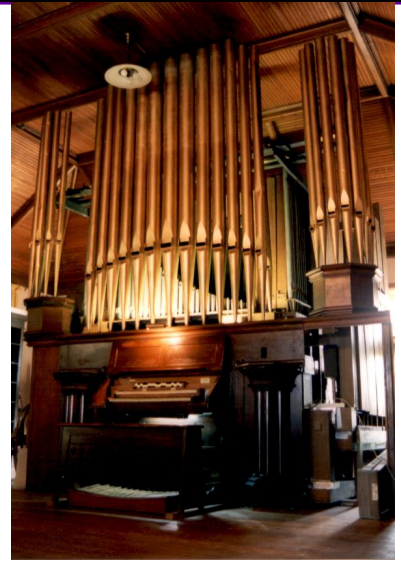
Organ Plus One

Most of us know someone in our congregation who plays an instrument, be it trumpet, flute, violin, harp or any others. Inviting them to join with you in a prelude, offertory or anthem obbligato is a wonderful way of engaging our congregations in our music programs.

There is a wealth of repertoire for organ and an instrument. We will showcase some of this at a recital/presentation on Wednesday May 8 at 7:00 pm hosted by Metropolitan Community Church at Emmanuel United Church, 1728 Lincoln Road.

The invitation is open to all who might wish to present a piece that they already offer in their church. If you would like to perform, please let me know and I can find a piece that might suit your wishes.

David Palmer



Organ Journals

In moving to down-size, I'm looking for anyone interested in taking organ journals that I have subscribed to for many years. There are some issues missing from the runs. I'd be happy to donate them to anyone or to a library. The University of Windsor Library already has them.

- ♪ The Diapason - since 1970
- ♪ Music: the AGO – RCCO Magazine (this was the predecessor to The American Organist)
- ♪ The American Organist
- ♪ Choir and Organ

Please let me know if you're interested.

With thanks,
David Palmer



(Continued from page 5)

chestral or symphonic organs. These thick and lush sounding organs were intended to render justice to the numerous orchestral transcriptions that organists of the day were required to provide in the days before much access to orchestras was available. This organ is remarkable in that it is in its original unaltered condition. It has been historically restored to this condition at great effort and expense over several years. The church organist was again on hand to demonstrate its characteristics. The room is a polar opposite to the previous venue. The reverberation time here is much less, and the organ is located in a chamber at the rear of the church in a side room, resulting in the pipes being somewhat buried compared to the ideal location enjoyed by the Wigton instrument. Nevertheless, the 31 ranks, about half the Wigton number, nevertheless contain twice as many string stops, allowing it to do justice to orchestral writing. It is a very different organ, especially after the tonal variety of the Wigton. The characteristic sound of the Skinner organs are again here for us to enjoy, sounding exactly as they did almost a century ago. This is truly history you can hear.

1873 Odell and Odell/ 1915 Hammer/1973 Worden, St. Joseph Oratory

This final venue was a last minute substitution for what would have been a visit to a much larger Skinner organ, but what a refreshing instrument it was. This organ has had a storied history, having been completely rebuilt and redesigned twice. It started out as a tracker action organ by the famed New York firm Odell and Odel, who placed hundreds of organs throughout most of the 1800s, second only to Henry Erben. Many of the original pipes and the original case, displaying beautiful painted, or diapered, pipework in the facade. The current organ has returned to many of the original ideas of Odell but with new chests. The Principal chorus has a wonderful rich sonority without being thick in texture. Inner voices of hymn passages are very clear. I love these Principals. The 37 ranks over two manuals are able to fill the beautiful building with an appropriate level of sound. Although the organist was not pleasant, there was a churchman on hand to provide details about the organ. Several of the crawlers had an opportunity to play, so the instrument here was also adequately demonstrated as in the previous churches. Its console features a lower than normal music rack, making it very comfortable to view. It doubles as a console cover that hinges down, in place of the more common roll top arrangement. The organist is closer to the pipes here than the other churches, and the slightly smaller sanctuary provides a sound that is bit more immediate.



In all, three very lovely and distinct organs were enjoyed. We learned a lot about organ history. The churches themselves were worth the visit, each rich with architectural history and beauty. But wait, there's more! We finished the visit with a great lunch and great conversation at a local restaurant. We now need to return the favour.





Clergy-Organist Dinner February 12

Our second dinner meeting with clergy friends took place at Eddy's Mediterranean Bistro on Tecumseh Road East. 14 attended, including 5 clergy guests and colleagues, enjoying a delicious dinner with a Middle Eastern flavour, several braving the driving aftermath of an icy morning. Rev. Rob Lemon, our Chaplain, gave an inspiring message on the topic of nurturing young organists. Acknowledging that his acquaintance with them is limited, he transferred the same ideas of developing strong personal relationships that draw recruits to ordained ministry. Members and clergy friends afterwards offered their own experiences of planning and working with each other, emphasizing open and frequent communication.

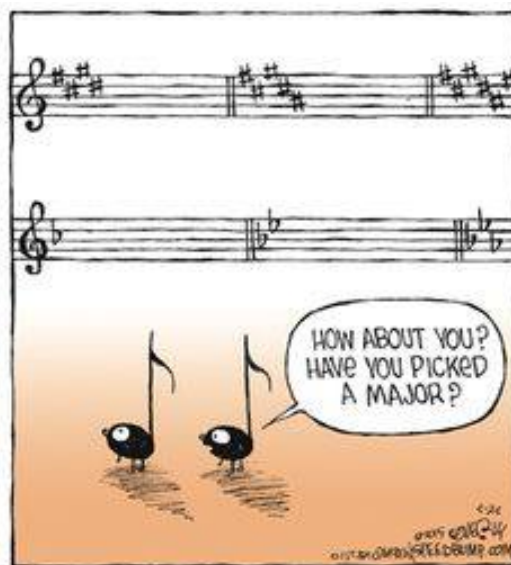
Thanks go to Dale Burkholder for arranging the venue and to Ben Schinkel for taking care of the registrations and payment to the restaurant.

Brian Sweetman receives the Distinguished Service Award

As you will recall, Windsor Essex Centre's nomination of Brian was accepted by National Council last year in recognition of his long work both as national Treasurer and Finance and Administration Chair and his long-time efforts in support of our local centre. As Brian was not present at Convocation in Calgary last summer, President Rick Morgan made the presentation at the meeting of National Council in November in Toronto.



Warm congratulations, Brian!



Ron visits the Largest Organ in the World

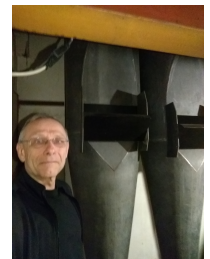
September 30, 2018

During a vacation last year, my wife and I stopped in Atlantic City, home of the Boardwalk Hall Auditorium, formerly called the Atlantic City Convention Hall. This building, located on the beach a few feet from the Atlantic Ocean (I took the exterior pic while standing in a centimeter of ocean water) nestles resolutely along other large and gaudy more recently built casinos. It is truly immense inside. When completed in 1929, it contained the largest unobstructed inside space in the world, having a volume of 5.5 million cubic feet. In those days, lacking suitable public address systems, organs served as musical entertainment for large buildings. Hockey arena and baseball stadiums all had loud organs, usually built on a theatre organ model. But the bar was raised for the organ in this gigantic space. In order for the organ to fill the space, it needed to be big and loud.



Senator Emerson Richards designed an organ that was to be heard above the loudest crowds, be both theatrical and classical, and be able to produce every sound that an organ is capable of. This resulted in a behemoth with over 400 ranks, 1250 stop controls, 33,144 pipes, and a seven manual console. The bottom two manuals have a seven octave compass. Even short statured organist can reach all of the controls, including the top-most manual, which is mounted almost vertically. It is located in an enclosure which can be closed like a curved shower stall to protect it during other uses of the hall. It is located at the far right side of the stage. Despite being the largest console in the world, it looks tiny when seen from the back of the hall on the 150 foot wide stage.

Every Wednesday, a free two hour tour is offered by the society formed to restore and preserve the organ. We were brought into the chambers and came within touching range of the pipes. A pic was taken of me standing next to CCCC of a Diapason 32 foot pipe. The feet of most pipes is seven inches long, but this one is a full six feet in length with another 32 feet of pipework above it. It purrs at a nearly inaudible 16Hz. Not to be outdone, there are two 64 foot stops. One is a Diaphone Dulcian with a reed tongue nearly two feet long that produces at tone at 8 Hz, which is well below hearing range. But it can definitely be felt.



This organ also has the loudest organ stop in the world. It is a trumpet stop called the Grand Ophicleide. It is one of four stops on 100" of wind pressure. These pipes do not look much different than normal trumpet pipes, except for having much thicker metal. They need to be held down with turnbuckles to prevent them from shooting out of their holes. They are six times louder than the loudest train whistle. But the organ does not seem too loud for the space. We learned this by hearing for ourselves.

At the end of the tour, we were led to the balcony at the rear of the auditorium. Our little group sat in the otherwise empty hall, which can seat up to 14,000, to enjoy a 30 minute recital by a concert organist familiar with playing on organs of this type. Even full organ did not seem unbearably loud. The gigantic hall size and chambered location of the pipes accounts for this. But inside the chambers is another matter. My American

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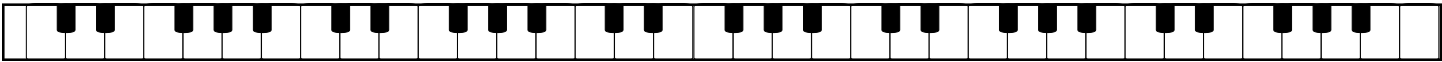
organ builder friends with personal experience tell me that tuning the loud stops is a physical experience. Using foam hearing protection and over the ear airport ear protection, the task can be performed with safety. But the up close experience is the sound goes right through your body.

An organ shop is located on site, where many volunteers have been systematically working toward a complete restoration of the organ, now at about 50% functionality. In the 1940s, ocean water entered the lower levels where the blowers and some switching mechanisms were located. Then, workers slashed through connecting cables in order to complete another job. These things nearly destroyed the organ, but it is happily coming back on line.

It is the loudest, largest, most expensive organ ever built. But does it sound good? One might expect a crude unmusical result, but the organ does sound very pleasant. It does sound very orchestral, as do most organs from that era.

I wholeheartedly endorse a visit. Even those who do not like or know the organ, as were most of our group on that day, were fascinated and impressed.





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INVITATIONAL HYMN

Supply Organists

The Windsor Essex Centre RCCO provides a list of supply organists available to cover vacations and emergencies including Sunday services. If you are a member or know of a member who would be willing to provide this service, please let us know and we will include their information on our supply list.

Michael Sewell 519-300-5601



ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS
WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE
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Membership fee for 2015-16: \$30

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