



Quarter Notes

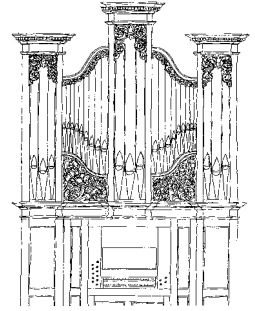


THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS
LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES

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

Chatham Corner

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



Summer, 2019

Upcoming Events

Chatham Centre

- ♫ Saturday June 22, 2019. During Retrofest celebrations, First Presbyterian Church will be holding an open house in the church from about 9:30am to 3pm. While the public wanders through, the organ will be played by members of the local RCCO as well as other invited organists to let all hear this wonderful 2 manual Casavant instrument.
- ♫ Sunday October 20th at 7:30 pm a Harvest Hymn festival with mass chorus will be held at Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Rehearsal for the mass choir will be from 1:30 to 3:30 with performance that evening. All choristers are invited to participate.
- ♫ Advent lunch time organ recitals will be held at Holy Trinity from 12:15 to 12:45pm December 7, 14, and 21.
- ♫ The travelling clinician Donald Hunt will be performing an English Romantic music concert ..time and date to be announced.

Windsor Centre

- ♫ Sunday, September 29—Annual Anthem Reading and Pasta dinner. This year we have partnered with Volkwein's Music (Pittsburgh, PA) who will be creating a sampling of the new anthem releases. They are offering us a 20% discount on any orders from the packet.
- ♫ Food for the soul concert, October 18 All Saint's Anglican Church, The soloist and organist will be presenting a song cycle based on food. It will be an interesting programme.
- ♫ In November we will be hosting the Detroit Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for an organ crawl highlighting Canadian built organs in Windsor.
- ♫ In December we will be presenting an Advent/Christmas themed Member's recital with potluck dinner to follow.
- ♫ In March we will be hosting our Annual Pedals, Pipes and Pizza event.
- ♫ The travelling clinician Donald Hunt will be presenting a workshop in Windsor.

Quarter Notes and Chatham Corner

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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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Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza Day

A success in Chatham Centre

Nancy Tapley Chatham Centre President

Chatham Centre held a Pedals Pipes and Pizza day at St. Andrew's United church in Chatham during March break. The Chatham Music Academy co-sponsored the event which helped to get the word out to musical students in the area.

Ron Dossenbach from the Windsor centre made an excellent presentation to the 12 participants aged 9 to 17. His informative video taught the participants about organ pipes, sounds, and construction. He demonstrated how the sound is made by the pipe by showing one which can be disassembled to see the inside of the pipe. All were then allowed to see the organ chamber and many took the opportunity to play the 3 manual Casavant in the church - sampling some of the various stops and attempting to play the pedals.

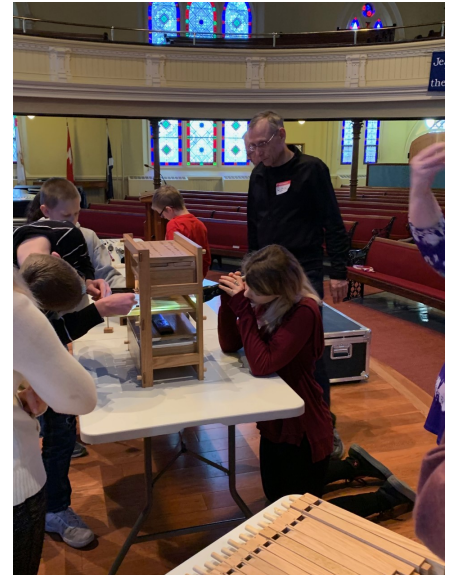
The highlight of the day was of course assembling the organ kit which Ron brought for the event. All of the participants eagerly joined in aligning the keys in order, the pipes into groups and sizes, attaching the keys, assembling wind chest and blowers, and placing the pipes into their proper places. Everyone had a chance to play the assembled instrument and all had a great deal of fun in the assembly.

The program was a huge success and many of the parents who stayed for the morning wanted us to present the program for adults too next time!



Message from Paul Wharram

I would like to thank everyone who signed the lovely get well card at the Annual General Meeting. Your kind thoughts and best wishes mean the world to me. I am on the mend slowly and making progress everyday. Looking forward to seeing you all again and collaborating with you. Kind regards and thank you all again. Paul.





Detroit Organ Crawl

Ron Dossenbach

Previously, an article was published in our newsletter about how this organ crawl came about. It was loaded with historical information on all three organs. It was presented here before the fact to promote the event. Therefore a lengthy rehash of all of that detail is not needed now.

Prior to the event, we had very little communication with the Detroit chapter of the AGO, except to contact someone who promised to look into it. We really did not know to what extent any preparations were undertaken by them. We did not know if there would be presenters or if anyone would be on hand to host the various organs. Well, we need not have worried.

Not only were experts on hand with very well researched histories, but the actual organ builder was on hand at the first stop, Old St. Mary's Church in Greektown. The organist was also present and, between them, gave a wonderful synopsis of how the organ came to be. This included the use of some mature hardwood trees that were to be sacrificed for roadwork. This led organbuilder Dave Wigton to enter the lumber business, transforming those magnificent trees into rough lumber, drying it properly, then making most of the organ's case-work from those same trees. And what a case it is! Old world woodworking techniques using stile and rail joinery was used. Certain decorations from the interesting plaster mouldings in the church were repeated in the organ to give the effect that the organ was always there. There is a wonderful 3-4 second reverberation time in the sanctuary, making it an almost perfect acoustical home for the organ, which sounds wonderful. Music from any part of the organ repertoire can be authentically played here.

There was plenty of time for anyone who cared to play the organ or to listen to it from several vantage points.

Next we were able to go back in time to hear a restored Skinner organ, with all its orchestral splendour. It is a privilege to hear an organ just as it was heard one hundred years ago without any modifications or "improvements" inflicted on it through the years as changing tastes often demand them to be made. A museum experience for the ears!

The last church was a last minute stand in, as the third church had a scheduling conflict. We were treated to a late 19th century tracker organ by Odell. Since then, this instrument has been modified, rebuilt, and even reconstructed. Much of the original pipework remains, and its Principal chorus has the most beautiful and tonally balanced sound you could ever ask for. The music rack also formed the lid to protect the console. Roll-tops were uncommon back then. It provided for a most pleasant low angle to read the music, not up and far away as is often the case.

After all of this, lunch took place at a very nice brewpub restaurant. The conversation here was as enjoyable as the organs, and some of it was about organs!

(Continued on page 5)

Hats off to the Detroit AGO for a thoroughly prepared and hosted event. We are now in the process of returning the favour. We hope to have a Windsor organ crawl for this November, which will also conclude with a lunch stop at a charming British pub-style restaurant. Please join us and enjoy the company of our organist friends from the north!

Ron Dossenbach

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

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Sarnia Organ Crawl

*Stellar organ crawl attracts almost 100 participants, widening our circle of friends:
Pipe organ crawl raises awareness of city's instruments*

Nancy Tapley Chatham Centre RCCO president

The Chatham Centre RCCO decided to have an organ crawl in nearby Sarnia ON. to explore four different organs from different builders which many from the centre had never heard. It was decided to open this event up to the public as well. Ian Mason from the area did a great deal of organization, a lot of publicity in local papers, and tickets were sold through a local music store at \$20 each. The local newspaper picked up on the event and did a feature story on our "King of the Instruments Organ Crawl" which really helped ticket sales. A Chatham Centre, RCCO facebook page was established and a dedicated event gmail address was obtained in advance of the crawl to aid in promotion. The crawl was promoted via social media sites, such as local heritage facebook groups.

The organs sampled were: the 3-manual (5 division) Hallman (1965) of St. Paul's United Church; the 3-manual Verschuren (1968, Flemish-style organ produced by the Holland organ firm) of First Christian Reformed Church; the 2-manual Casavant (1973) of All Saints' Anglican Church; and the 3-manual, 3-chambered Casavant (1898 & 1930) of Central United Church.

A booklet was prepared that provided an historical summary and organ chronology of each church. As well, an organ specifications document was prepared and offered to any who were interested in knowing the technical details of the organs that they were hearing.

We were excited (and indeed stunned) to find that 54 tickets had been presold and about another 40 were sold at the door. Because it became an event for the general public, the rather informal format used for most organ crawls just for organists was modified at the ninth hour to provide basic information about organs and pipes to those attending. Ron Dossenbach from the Windsor centre gave an excellent informative presentation to the group about the shapes, sizes, and materials that make up organ pipes and sounds and some basics of organ construction. At each location, the resident organist or one of the centre members played a few pieces to show off the instrument, one or two hymns from the church's hymnal were played and sung by all, and then the bench was opened up for those eager to sample the sounds.

All interested organists were given an opportunity to try each of the four various instruments and surprisingly, several of the attendees with piano background decided to give it a try as well. At St. Paul's United Church, attendees were offered the rare opportunity to walk into the organ chamber and proceed downstairs to see the organ blower and rectifier boards.

A recital by David Troiano from Ann Arbor Michigan at the final stop at Central United Church which has a 3 manual Casavant rounded out a very successful afternoon. David Troiano was asked by the Centre to play a repertoire that would appeal to an audience who may not be familiar with (or have even heard) a live pipe organ. Shorter pieces provided a good overview of different composers. There were also a few that included (recognizable) adaptations of hymns.

I have attended many organ crawls through the years but this was by far the best in my opinion. By including the public, we did much to further interest in the organ throughout the community...and isn't that what we are all about?



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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
Rozalia Lukas rozalija.1@hotmail.com*



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WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE
APPLICATION FOR CENTRE FRIEND MEMBERSHIP

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Church affiliation and position
(if applicable): _____

Membership fee for 2015-16: \$30

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