



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

## Quarter Notes

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*

*Fall 2020*

## President's Report

Many of us by now, have returned to the organ bench and are contributing in some fashion to worship at our churches. Churches and worship services are gradually re-opening, even though gathering restrictions are still being enforced within our communities.

I have been reflecting on the results of the COVID-19 Impact on Canadian Organists Survey, which formed the basis of the August 12 online forum. I hope that all of you had the opportunity to participate in that forum.

By way of a quick summary, of most concern to our membership are the following points;

- ♫ Not being able to access an organ to maintain skills
- ♫ Loss of income or careers
- ♫ Personal and mental health challenges perpetuated by loss of professional support, loneliness, lack of motivation and absence of professional development
- ♫ Anxiety around choral issues, i.e. will choir members return
- ♫ Feeling cut off from social networks, including colleagues and music communities, and maintaining relationships

These concerns are indeed legitimate; but at the same time, I feel that they can help shape our future programming activities and initiatives as we move forward. As I said in my June Newsletter report, "I am committing myself to keep communication and connectivity at the forefront of our planning." This coincides with several comments made by participants in the survey in response to the question "what kind of help do you need right now?" below are several responses, which strike a chord with me.

- ♫ Being in touch with fellow organists and colleagues for oral support and meaningful conversation.
- ♫ Online learning resources for building and maintaining skills as an organist at all levels
- ♫ Technical advice on: live-streaming/recording options, recording and incorporating music into online services, online rehearsals, etc.

With these concerns and requests in mind, the Executive Committee is looking at ways in which our programming can be taken online. One of those activities is coming together nicely and we hope to announce very soon our first ever 'Watch Party'. We are currently exploring how we can do this using existing and available technologies. In the meantime, we may organize a Zoom 'Gab'

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 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](mailto:gangalf@live.com) to have your events  
included in our calendar.

(Continued from page 1)

Session for all of our members to share thoughts, ideas, suggestions or  
just have friendly chats.

When we announce our plans and specify a date/time for the Watch  
Party, we will let you know the full details and hope that all of you will  
participate and show your support.

Stay tuned for more.....

Paul Wharram

## Executive Committee

### Windsor Essex Centre

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## Executive Committee

### Chatham Centre

President: NANCY TAPLEY

Vice President: HARRY ROFFEL

Secretary/Treasurer: KEITH GROEN

Membership : DON POLE

Publicity: SANDRA BARNES

& HARRY ROFFEL



## Student Recital September 27, 2020

Scholarship students of the Windsor Essex Centre, Michelle Park and Evan Su, played an organ recital on Sunday, September 27, 2020 at St. Stephen's Church in Oldcastle.

Henry Boon, Chair of the Scholarship Program was the emcee and introduced each of the students. They in turn spoke about the organ pieces they had chosen to perform including, which included three hymn tunes.

Although attendance was on the slim side, the audience was enthusiastic and supportive. Both Evan and Michelle performed admirably and demonstrated excellent technical skills.

We are proud of our students and delight in seeing their commitment and joy in playing the organ.

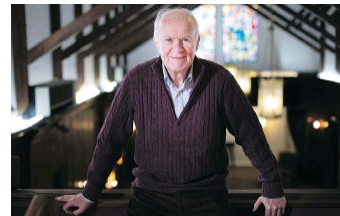
Thanks to Henry for organizing the recital, to Michelle and Evan for performing and special thanks to St. Stephen's Church for hosting this event.

If you missed the recital, you can view it at <https://youtu.be/dxum-bD9oa8>



## Saying Goodbye to a Great Friend

You are invited to a Garden Party to honour and pay tribute to David Palmer, at 985 Roseland Drive, South Windsor on Saturday, October 3rd. All members and friends are invited to join in honouring David for his years of service to the Windsor Essex RCCO; but must RSVP no later that September 30th and indicate their preference for 2:00 - 3:00 pm or 3:00 - 4:00 pm.



Please advise Paul Wharram of your attendance at [paul.wharram@gmail.com](mailto:paul.wharram@gmail.com).

Safe practices will be observed and all are asked to wear a mask.

## From our Membership Chair

*From Karen Price*

Dear friends,

I hope this message finds you well and safe. I look forward to getting to know each of you. If you have any questions about your membership or upcoming RCCO events, please don't hesitate to telephone me at 416-454-9510.

Sincerely,

Karen Price



## RCCO Windsor-Essex on Facebook

We on Facebook in 2 forms.

The first is a “page” (<https://www.facebook.com/RCCOWindsorEssex>). This is where we post announcements and other things of interest.

The second is a “group” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RCCOWindsorEssexGroup>). This is a place where members of the groups can discuss items of interest to our centre. We are working to setup “Watch parties” here. A watch party will allow us to join with our favourite beverage and watch same videos and are about it or whatever. This is a great way to safely socialize.

## 2021 Organ Festival Announced July 11-19, 2021

The Hamilton Centre has been named as the host of the 2021 Organ Festival, scheduled for July 11 – 19, 2021. It is uncertain at this time what format the festival will take and whether restrictions re size of gatherings will be still in place. In the near future, the organizing committee will be reaching out to members to ask for ideas and various scenarios for offering the event.



## Thoughts from our Chaplain

Dear Friends,

This has clearly been a very challenging time for musicians, the church, and for everybody in our community. As things re-open in terms of in-person activities, we know that the preceding 6 months have not been a time of inactivity. Music did not stop and the church did not cease to function, but we did have to find new ways of continuing our ministry and activity. We are still a long way off from returning to the pattern of life we knew prior to March of this year, which means we are going to have keep finding new ways of doing what we are called to. From our experience over the last few months I think we can say that constant innovation and adaptation along with the normal stress of daily living is deeply challenging and can really wear us down.

This is something that I imagine Jesus and his followers experienced since their approach to ministry was so different from the norm of his day and age. When you read the stories of Jesus' ministry, oftentimes following a major activity like feeding the 5000 or substantial healing events, Jesus took time to step away from the busyness of ministry to rest and pray. What we should see in that is that even the incarnate Son of God, needed time for rest and prayer. I think that reality is instructive for us normal people, especially right now. As we begin to engage in our work and ministry another new context, it is important that we leave space and time in our lives for rest and prayer. We need God's grace and help to enable us to continue and to encourage us in our faith. When we take time for rest and prayer it opens us up to that grace and help.

As we begin to re-engage in a pattern of life that is more typical, please do not get too caught up in the craziness, and make sure that you take the time to step away for rest and prayer like Jesus did. This has been and, I think, will continue to be a very challenging time. God will certainly care for us, but the challenge is for us to remember to open ourselves up to God's care. Please ensure that you leave some space and time in your life for rest and prayer.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Canon Robert Lemon,  
Chaplain, Windsor-Essex RCCO Centre

## Congratulations to Ron Dossenbach!

Like the RCCO, the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO) provides Colleague and Fellowship certification. The Colleague exam consists of three two-hour exams covering tonal, historical, and mechanical aspects of organbuilding. The AIO guidance is to have 6,000 hours of professional experience before considering sitting for the exams.

Ron wrote the exams over a two-year period and has been awarded the Colleague of Organbuilding Certificate. On behalf of all the membership, we congratulate Ron.



**AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ORGANBUILDERS**

For more information on the AIO can be found at <https://www.pipeorgan.org/membership-info/certification>

## AA: The Alliston Aeolian Adventure Conclusion

*From: Ron Dossenbach, Organ Advisor*

It has been a busy time. Just before the pandemic, I was contacted by an Orangeville man who has been collecting musical instruments and cultural objects for decades. He plans to open the Musical Cultures Museum. Among other things, he has 160 reed organs and five complete pipe organs in storage. He asked me to consult on the viability of adding Aeolian #1095 to the collection. That resulted in a total of four trips to Alliston ON.



A trove of Canadian history awaited me. 1095 was purchased by the son of Timothy Eaton in 1910. The III/40 instrument was Canada's largest residence pipe organ. John Craig Eaton enjoyed playing the organ by its paper rolls at his ARDWOLD mansion, kitty corner from Casa Loma, in Toronto. The Great Hall extended the width of the large home with a 20' ceiling. The organ was the highlight of a mansion with many highlights. But it was torn down in 1936. It was of such stout construction that the walls would not yield to a wrecking ball and explosives had to be used.

That same year, the family donated the organ to the French speaking parish Paroisse Sacre Coeur in Toronto. In the 1960s, Keates installed a new organ and removed and stored 1095. A few years later in 1968, a school music teacher/church organist/brave soul purchased it for \$1,600 and installed it in his Alliston home. Fast forward to 2020.

We found the organ on the second floor (!) of his house, which was being sold, as Lawrence Lindsay had re-

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

cently died. Once again the family, this time the Lindseys, donated the organ, not to a church, but to the future museum. It was determined that much of the organ did not make it to Alliston. Just under 50% of the pipework remained. The remaining pipework was traded and purchased by Lawrence since 1968 in pursuit of his ongoing DIY home organ project to create a classic pipe organ. The reams of organ music that we found had good representations of Bach, Mendelssohn, and Dupre. 1095 was never intended to have the ability to properly perform the works of these masters. Aeolian wanted to deliver mechanically produced music, both classical, light classical, and popular, in the home in a more varied way than a player piano and its limited tonal capability. They wanted to simulate an orchestra, and used pipe organs, with pipes modified to sound more like orchestral than like actual organ pipes to achieve that end. As a result, there are very few pipes from the Diapason family, no principal chorus. They were used like juke boxes more than hand played organs. So Lawrence spent decades trying to remedy the tonal shortcomings of 1095 for his purposes. This was done when the historical value of Aeolian organs was not yet appreciated. These alterations of Aeolian organs were in fact widespread, so Lawrence may be forgiven for now seems like sacrilege.

I suggested that, on its merits, there was so much original pipework missing that its value in a museum might be questionable. But the Eaton connection to Canadian history was enough for the museum principal to proceed. It was decided to remove it and put it into storage for later historical restoration. The plan is to purchase another large Aeolian organ for the missing pipework and to not use the replaced non-Aeolian ranks.

Removing a pipe organ involves much more than just muscling out the console. Even that has to be partially dismantled to pass through doorways. The pipes must be removed very carefully and placed in purpose built trays of various lengths. We filled over thirty of these. Another organ technician from Toronto, John Struve, did much of the disassembly.

Finally everything was taken apart and the reservoirs, wind trunks, relay, and everything but the windchests were taken away. This left the three huge and heavy windchests. Special movers were hired. Four very large men with rigging equipment successfully delivered the chests to the storage area. Much respect for Lawrence developed. He moved those chests up those stairs with high school kids and pulleys!



It took a long time, but everything was removed by the end of August. The Alliston Aeolian Adventure is now paused as the search for a "donor organ" begins. It will likely be found in the US, so the border closure effectively eliminates any real developments for a while. But there are two candidates in the Pittsburgh area that await our attention.





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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](http://cypresschoral.com)*



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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 [mikesmail7@bell.net](mailto:mikesmail7@bell.net)*



ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS  
WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE  
*APPLICATION FOR CENTRE FRIEND MEMBERSHIP*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Church affiliation and position  
(if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee for 2015-16: \$30

Make cheque or money order payable to: Windsor-Essex Centre, RCCO

Please mail to:

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