

REPORTS TO NATIONAL COUNCIL
Received as of November 4, 2009

Trustees

Peter Partridge, Chair

No report submitted at time of printing.

Rebranding taskforce

Melva Graham, Chair

No report submitted at time of printing.

Reports of Standing Committees of National Council

Conventions Committee

Rick Morgan, Chair

2009 Centennial Convention of the RCCO Toronto: June 29 to July 2

Chair: Mark Toews

- the centennial convention was a great artistic success but incurred a financial loss.
- Attendance was good and exceeded expectations.
- The Toronto Centre had enough money in its Reserve Fund to take care of the deficit this summer. This Fund was largely made up of profits from past conventions. Had the financial times been different, there probably would have been a profit from this convention as well.
- Money that was expected from foundations & corporate and government agencies did not happen.

2010 Victoria (July 18-22 2010)

Chair: Nicholas Fairbank

- The Victoria committee had its most recent monthly meeting on Oct. 17th. Contracts are all out and waiting to be signed off.
- The website is being developed and there should very soon be more detailed information about all recitalists, workshops, with links to hotels and our travel agent.
- The budget and programme were approved at the RCCO Board meeting on Oct. 2nd, and we look forward to receiving the grants and loan from national office.
- The Vancouver sub-committee headed by Rachel Alflatt has its programme in place, and transport details for the day of the Vancouver trip are being worked out.
- Fundraising is going slowly, but we are still optimistic about receiving more financial assistance from local businesses and individual sponsors. To date we have raised \$5,000 in donations from local members, \$1,800 in sponsorships for specific performances, and \$16,345 in in-kind donations.
- We are indeed cognisant of the fact that we need to be budgeting conservatively, and are looking at ways of cutting costs should certain funding not materialize.

2011 Hamilton July 17-21 2011

Co-chairs: Bruce Cross, Zachary Windus, Simon Irving

- The Convention Committee has met six times and activities are proceeding according to the overall schedule.
- The Program Committee has met three times and is actively considering guest artists and speakers.
- The hotel is contracted, Tourism Hamilton is on board.
- The theme and logo completed, and a draft budget being built.
- The convention website will be active and ready by January.
- All concerned are enthusiastic about our plans and progress, and there seems to be general support from the centre membership.

2012 Potential “mini-convention”

- Format and location are not yet confirmed. This needs to be resolved before the end of December 2009, or it will be too late. A serious concern.

2013 Regular Annual National Convention

- We need to get a location confirmed for this convention.

Issue of annual conventions

- The issue of continuing to hold RCCO national conventions every year is currently under discussion. There was significant discussion at the March 2009 National Council Meeting held in Toronto in March 2009 and again in June 2009
- The committee reviewing the scheduling of conventions and the need for and issues surrounding holding a national convention each year includes: Rick Morgan (chair), Douglas Wiseman, Deidre Piper, Frederick Francis, Frances Harkness, and William Wright.
- A report follows.

Convention Committee Meeting

July 1 2009 in Toronto

Members of the committee met during the 100th anniversary convention: Rick Morgan, William Wright, Frederick Francis, Doug Wiseman, Fran Harkness

General discussion:

- *The convention was perhaps too early in 2009. It should not be held until after the first week of July. The early convention created some problems for the examinations committee, and for National Office.*
- *If smaller centres are doing conventions, perhaps national office could consider paying for one of the major recitals.*
- *Engage local people to conduct workshops. This might encourage additional people to become part of the RCCO.*

- *Try to highlight local talent in recitals.*
- *It would be good to develop a “best practices manual”. (This could be part of the existing conventions manual).*

Annual national conventions – or every two years?

- *Should “in between” convention be called symposiums (or something similar) with an emphasis on learning and less emphasis on concerts? The RCCO travelling clinician could be included in the “in between” event. There could be an emphasis on other instruments in addition to the organ.*
- *Every year – the RCCO is obliged to have:*
 - *An annual general meeting*
 - *A convocation (to be held after the organ competition)*
- *These conventions should be only 2 days long. (2½ days maximum). Only one would be held in the “in between years”*
- *These events could have a specific learning theme and could be used as a way to broaden people’s interest and involvement in the RCCO.*
- *There could be a program where clergy were specifically invited to participate.*
- *Only one major recital would be included.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Propose that the first mini-convention (symposium, conference – what name?) be held in 2012 at a location to be determined. The results/success of this smaller event can be further reviewed.*
- *It should have a specific learning theme*
- *Next full annual convention should be held in 2013 at a location to be determined.*

OUTLINE OF A MIN-CONVENTION (for discussion)

Sunday evening
Concert / reception

Monday morning
Worship/workshops
Small recital – travelling clinician

Monday afternoon
AGM of the RCCO
Convocation
College Service
Small recital

Monday evening
Recital
Social Event

Tuesday morning
Worship/workshops
Small recital

Tuesday afternoon
Workshops
Recital
Choral Event

Tuesday evening
Recital/Concert
Closing social event

Membership Committee

Deirdre Piper, Chair

During the 2009 International Organ Festival in Toronto issues of membership were discussed in two forums: at a meeting of Centre Presidents and also with members of the Membership Committee.

The meeting with Centre Presidents met during lunch at a local restaurant and tried to conduct a conversation under somewhat difficult circumstances. I chaired the meeting and commenced by outlining the concerns of the Membership Committee over recent declining membership. While stressing the importance of membership drives within each of the Centres, the issues go much further than this. A declining membership clearly reflects realities that have to do with a variety of matters related to the College itself and to the changing nature of the musical and ecclesiastical worlds. The Membership Committee posed questions to National Council, some of which have to do with our role as a College in the 21st century and whether, or to what extent, we need to renew our focus so as to become relevant and helpful as a resource to our colleagues who should be, but are not, members.

Three matters were currently dominating our thoughts, raising issues that get to the heart of who we are:

1. Changes in liturgical styles and practices and the overwhelming force of popular culture are causing significant shifts in the nature and practice of music in worship. Many of our colleagues find themselves in situations where the organ no longer provides the breath of musical tone; rather, praise bands with pop, rock and jazz idioms are favoured - situations demanding vastly different skill sets from those of the classically trained organist.

The problem here relates to one of our published Aims and Objectives:

“To promote a high standard of organ playing, choral directing, church music and composition.” (2008-2009 Yearbook, p.9)

Further, the Code of Ethics (Yearbook p.13) states without ambiguity in its preamble:

“The Royal Canadian College of Organists was founded to encourage a high standard of church music, and to support those engaged in that work.”

While at the time of formulating these statements - with their implication that organ playing and choral directing lie at the heart of church music - it may have appeared general in application, this is clearly no longer the case. To what extent, then, ought we

as a College - part of whose mandate is to encourage and promote excellence in church music - to be addressing those for whom the organ and the SATB choir are no longer the necessary mainstay of music offered in Christian worship? Do we have a responsibility to them? Do we have anything to offer by way of recognition, help and training? Ought we to broaden our focus so as to embrace them in the now so much wider cause of church music?

2. There is a perception that the College is rather stuffy - both the 'Royal' and 'College' monikers may be, each in its own way, contributing to this. I also dare to suggest that we may suffer, in the wider musical world, from being viewed as an essentially Christian organization.

3. The professional musical world appears largely to ignore the organ as a significant instrument in orchestral, chamber and solo events. The perception seems to be that we are just a bunch of church musicians, and we have no place in the secular musical world.

A conversation around these issues was then invited, and the following is a brief summary (in no particular order) of points made. It will be noted that many issues raised by the Membership Committee are either ignored or countered in some of the responses below, but other good questions are also raised.

- i) We are the organ association. Leave other musics as issues for the RSCM, etc. We need to focus more on the secular world, but remain focused always on the organ.
- ii) We don't have to stick with what we know. Our concern is the 'persecuted organist' by clergy; the College ought to donate towards the hiring of competent lawyers in cases of dispute.
- iii) The issue is education. We do not need to shift our focus, but to continue to practice what we do with the utmost integrity.
- iv) Music in worship varies according to demographics. A mix of traditional and contemporary hymns is possible; many churches do this quite successfully. Listen to the congregation and meet their needs.
- v) Aim to expose young people to the organ.
- vi) Young people don't like the church, and we have to face this reality. How do we fit into a secular and multi-religious society? Should the RCCO remain a small niche society?
- vii) In recital programs include secular pieces in jazz styles, etc.
- viii) We need to place more stress on choral conducting, encouraging young singers and thereby exposing them to the organ - the young can become interested.
- ix) We need a survey of the Centres, of their constituents' interests and needs; a picture of the whole organization will then emerge.
- x) A serious approach to advertising is required.

Previous to the meeting with Centre Presidents, the Membership Committee met for a brief conversation mainly in response to our own previous questions. As far as strategies to promote

the instrument are concerned, it was strongly felt that we must, at all times, be consistent in our aims toward excellence in performance, whether in church or in recital. Inside the church we need to reach out to the congregation with bulletin information about the music played and always to perform it to our highest standards; perhaps also to invite people to examine the instrument, even inside the pipe chambers (or with photographs if physical entry is inadvisable). Free access to the instrument is important so that those (of any age) who do show an interest can be encouraged to try their hand and to develop any skills that they may have; and for those who show distinct promise, be prepared to offer one or two free lessons where possible and invite them occasionally to play a part in a worship service. Brief noon-hour recitals with lunch can also work.

Working with other good instrumentalists can be rewarding, and may indirectly lead to interest on the part of some students. Try to obtain money for organ scholarships for young students. Make the organ part of the sound-stage of young peoples' musical world.

In a sense, this report takes the form of Minutes of two previous meetings. Since the summer no meeting of the Membership Committee has taken place, and for this I have to take responsibility. It is with much regret that I have had to convey to our President my resignation as chair of the Committee. However, my interest in the work of the Committee continues, and, at our President's invitation, I am pleased to remain as a member. The work of the Committee and the discussions that it promotes in Council are, I believe, of vital importance to our future. As Mao aphoristically declared with typical insight: the development of a thing arises from its internal contradictions. The contradictions that we perceive within our mandate and current practice may, if we have the courage, lead to a renewed College able both to continue its fine traditional work and also to offer genuine and relevant support to all those engaged in music for worship.

Reports of Standing Committees of the Board of Directors

By-Laws Committee

Lorne Swan, Chair

Two significant events have occurred recently in the life of the College which ought to be reflected in the governance of the College:

- the introduction of the mutual co-membership arrangement with the American Guild of Organists, and
- the restructuring of the Examinations Committee and introduction of a Board of Examiners.

Neither of these are in conflict with the By-Laws of the College, and consequently no By-Law amendment is required at this time.

These changes do warrant modifications to the Regulations of the College insofar as there is a new type of membership (co-member), and a new Board of Examiners, both of which require some definition.

The following draft of the amendments is presented to this meeting of Council for consideration and discussion only. The final amendments with any modifications resulting from these discussions will be presented to the Board of Directors at its January meeting for enactment, followed by the formal ratification of these by the National Council at its spring

meeting.

**REGULATION I – MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (SEE By-Law IV)
(add to existing)**

5. Co-members –

(a) Co-membership in the College is open to members of other organizations with comparable aims and objectives which provide a mutual membership benefit to members of the College. The Board of Directors shall determine the organizations which may participate, and the criteria for eligibility of members of such organizations for co-membership.

**REGULATION IV – REGISTRAR OF EXAMINATIONS
(changes from current text in bold italics)**

The National Council shall appoint a Registrar of Examinations whose duty shall be to perform or supervise all clerical work in connection with College Examinations in such manner as the Examinations Committee *and the Board of Examiners* may require. In particular, the Registrar of Examinations shall be responsible for ensuring the accurate and timely publication of examination requirements, the printing and distribution of examination papers, and the availability and distribution of diplomas to successful candidates. *The Registrar of Examinations, in cooperation with respective Centre officers, shall be responsible for the provision of suitable local arrangements such as venues and invigilators.*

The duties of Registrar of Examinations ~~will~~ *may* be carried out by a designated member, or members, of the administrative staff.

**REGULATION V – BOARD OF EXAMINERS
(new section – following sections renumbered accordingly)**

The Board of Examiners shall consist of examiners who shall conduct all practical and theoretical examinations for the diplomas and certificates of the College. Appointment of suitable examiners to the Board shall be made by the National Council upon the joint recommendation of the Chair of Examinations and the Chair of the Board of Examiners. Such appointments shall be for a renewable term of six years. Members of the Board of Examiners shall be required to be members of the College in good standing.

The Board of Examiners shall have a Chair appointed from amongst its members by the President. Such appointment shall be for a non-renewable term of six years. The Chair shall be a member of the National Council ex officio. The responsibilities of Chair shall include:

- assigning of examiners to conduct examinations as required from time to time;
- maintaining a satisfactory number of qualified examiners to meet all contingencies;
- determining the manner in which examinations shall be conducted;

- consulting with the Registrar of Examinations with regard to the administering of all examinations, including venues, invigilators, printing and distribution of materials;
- reporting of examination results to the Registrar of Examinations in a timely fashion so that candidates can be informed of their results and the preparation of diplomas arranged.

Any candidate wishing to appeal the results of their examination must do so in writing to the Chair of the Board of Examiners within 30 days of receipt of their results. Upon receipt of such an appeal, the Chair of Examinations, or a member of the Board of Examiners designated by the Chair, shall review the examination and shall report the results of the review as soon as is practical to the candidate and to the President. Such report shall be considered final resolution and no further appeal shall be permitted.

College Development Fund

Douglas Wiseman, Chair

So far this College Year we have awarded one CDF Scholarship. The recipient is Victor Ouyang from Windsor, Ontario. Victor will study with Dr David Palmer. Each Centre can receive one CDF scholarship per year. Please keep those applications coming.

Finance & Administration Committee

Brian Sweetman, Chair

Report will be available at meeting.

Endowment Fund

No report submitted at time of printing.

Reports of Standing Committees of National Council (cont'd)

Competitions Committee

William Wright, Chair

No report submitted at time of printing.

Education and Resources Committee

Nick Fairbank and Simon Irving, Co-Chairs

The Education and Resource committee has very little to report this time. Our next project is to develop a resource package for the course entitled "Tools and Techniques in Church Music", but in view of changing times and expectations of what skills church musicians should have, we realise that there is a need to update the course content, so we will be working on this in the coming months.

Examinations Committee

David Cameron, Chair

The Examination Committee is sorry, at the beginning of the new season, to have lost the services of two members: Tom Annand and Barrie Cabena have both made substantial contributions to the committee's life, and we will miss their trenchant contributions to our work. We are very glad to announce the accession of four new members: Philip Sarabura (FRCCO 2007) of Hamilton, Fredric DeVries (FRCCO 1989), also of Hamilton, Ian Morton (FRCCO 1994) of the Northumberland Centre, and Jordan de Souza (FRCCO 2008) of Montréal. They join four continuing members: former committee chairs Karen Holmes and Frances Macdonnell, both of Ottawa, Jonathan Oldengarm of Montréal, and the present chair, who resides in Kingston.

Last year marked a new departure for this committee, working for the first time largely by email among members in widely separated cities. The preparation and proofreading of eight three-hour examination papers, with ear tests and keyboard tests at five levels, was a cumbersome undertaking involving many dozens of email exchanges. Building upon that experience, and with a slightly larger committee, we hope this year to divide much of this work among smaller groups; this should be equally efficient and much less time-consuming overall.

The new structure, with the conduct of examinations being in the hands of the Registrar for Examinations and the Chairman of the Board of Examiners, passed its first test very successfully. So did the establishment of a separate Choral Subcommittee chaired by Dr. Giles Bryant. Both of these structural innovations are effective and will be continued. The necessity of changing to an earlier date last year caused some dislocation, and one candidate was sufficiently inconvenienced that the committee chose to allow a repeat examination without charge, but that was an unusual situation brought about by the early date of the centennial Convocation. In 2010 we will revert to the long-established dates for applications and exams.

At the time of writing preparation of all but one of the 2010 examination papers, all of the ear tests, and about a third of the keyboard tests have been undertaken by committee members or consultants, and the others will shortly be under way. These will be the last examinations under the present syllabus.

The committee will begin work on the new syllabus for 2011 and beyond, with a conference call in mid-November. Various proposals for revisions of the exam requirements have been put before us, and they will be given serious consideration. In particular, changes pertinent to the current "rebranding" process will be appraised very carefully; while conscious of the responsibility to maintain standards which have been passed down to us, we are also eager to make our examinations as relevant as possible to new needs and new opportunities.

As part of this process the chair has recently conducted an informal poll of Fellows by examination, seeking their advice about the committee's work and structure, and the results of those discussions will be part of our discussions as we undertake the revision of the syllabus. We would welcome any further advice or suggestions from members of Council, preferably in the form of email to the chair at cdc@queensu.ca, although phone calls to 613-549-7125 will also reach me.

Historic Organs Committee

William Wright, Chair

Nothing to report.

Honorary Awards Committee

Alan Reesor, Chair

No report submitted at time of printing.

Music Publications Committee

Michael Capon, Chair

Nothing to report.

Nominations Committee

David Cameron, Chair

No report submitted at time of printing.

Outreach and Liaison with Religious Denominations Committee

Randy Mills, Chair

The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada will meet in Halifax, NS June 3-11, 2010. Coinciding with the meeting of Anglicans from across the country will be a celebration of 300 years of continuous Anglican worship in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It is likely, therefore, that many local visitors, as well as the 500+ delegates and visitors expected for the General Synod, will be in attendance.

Display space at the Halifax 2010 General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada will be more costly than was a similar display area we booked in Winnipeg in 2007: next summer's charge may be as high as \$1,300.

The next national meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will be in 2011, and the United Church General Council will not meet again until 2011. While the display space rental figure is high, it is still considerably cheaper than the purchase of display advertising in church publications. A display ad would cost about \$300 for one issue of the Anglican Journal, and is considerably higher for the United Church Observer.

I would ask that National Council consider renting a display space at the Halifax meeting of Anglicans. I will contact the Halifax Centre and other area members to arrange for the staffing of a display, should Council decide to go ahead with this plan.

Also in June, 2010 the Association of Theological Schools and its Committee on Accrediting will be meeting in Montreal. I have asked for more information about this meeting – who will be attending, for instance. It is possible that we might benefit from a presence of some sort at it.

Professional Support Committee

Patricia Wright, Chair

The primary activity of the Professional Support Committee has remained the screening of position advertisements, and since the last meeting, we have refused to post two ads. We are attempting to create guidelines around the grounds for refusal of ads; however, we seem to be agreeing that ongoing or potential legal action between the employer and employee is about the only situation in which we can refuse an ad. We appreciate the guidance of others on this issue. Again, we must not appear to be engaging in any type of 'union' activity, and we must always safeguard the legal position of the College. As usual, we recommend that our members seek our help/mediation before situations escalate to dismissal. Thanks go to the committee members and others throughout the country who help our inquiries.

Communications

Bruce Cross, Communications Editor

Communications Staff have produced three editions of the full colour bimonthly *Organ Canada*, now the official journal of the College: the Special Centennial Issue launched during the Toronto International Organ Festival, the September issue, and the forthcoming November issue.

The *Yearbook & Annual Directory of Members* is nearly complete and will be mailed with the January issue of *Organ Canada*.

Reports of Regional Directors

REGION 1 (Atlantic)

Douglas Wiseman, Regional Director

Avalon - No Report at time of writing

Annapolis Valley - The Annapolis Valley Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO), under the guidance of its president Maureen MacLean, is organizing a concert of local musicians in Kingston United Church on Sunday October 4 at 7:30 pm. The concert format is similar to that of the immensely successful Sacred, Secular, and Silly concerts held each spring in Bridgetown. Another part of the Annapolis Valley is now being invited to enjoy the pleasures provided by the king of instruments, the pipe organ.

A feature of this concert will be the presentation of certificates to the 2009 winners of its scholarship program for aspiring organists. This program, instituted by the Annapolis Valley Centre RCCO in 2005, encourages proficient musicians to sample the workings of the pipe organ. Two Nancy Fraser Memorial Scholarships have been awarded to Victoria Baker of Kingston and Cally Keddy of North Kingston; a Martha Ausserleitner Memorial Scholarship was given Mary Ann Ruggles of Kingston; the Mary Montgomerie Memorial Scholarship went to Michael Gnemmi of Hantsport. These young musicians have been invited to play at the concert, following the completion of their set of organ lessons given by Elizabeth Harwood, local organist and accompanist. Two Valley choral groups will sing at the concert: Annapolis Valley Children's Chorus and Kitty Howse's Children's Choir. Soprano Shannon Patterson Young will perform, as will organists Elizabeth Harwood, Maureen MacLean, John Montgomerie and David Skidmore. Provision has been made in the program for three vigorous

audience hymns; a freewill offering will be taken for the Organ Scholarship Fund. All are invited to a reception in the church hall following the concert to meet this talented group of organists and singers. *Submitted by John A. Montgomerie, member, Annapolis Valley Centre RCCO*

We held a concert on October 4 in the Kingston United Church which has recently installed a Johannus organ: a Sweelinck 27 AGO. This was an opportunity show it off. Six of our members performed at the concert. Elizabeth Harwood played Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor which brought the audience to their feet in appreciation. Two children's choirs performed. One of our scholarship students performed and received a certificate. The concert was well attended and our share of the offering will help keep our programs going.

Elizabeth Harwood reported at our meeting on Friday that all but one of the scholarship lessons had been completed. We had four students this year. The scholarships were presented in memory of Nancy Fraser, Mary Montgomerie and Martha Ausserleitner. The program is proving to be a way to interest young people in the organ.

Our plans for an organ crawl have been postponed to late next spring. We hope to include Sainte Bernard and we need to go there when the church is warm and there is no threat of snow.

We are very pleased with the treatment Bruce Cross gave the obituary of Nancy Fraser in Organ Canada. We shared it with Nancy's husband, Ian Harris.

We like the face lift Bruce Cross has given Organ Canada and are glad that it is a venue for centre news.

The executive continues to meet regularly to plan events. We use email to keep in touch with the membership of the Centre. *Submitted by Marian E. Ward, secretary*

Halifax - Mark Himmelman was the organiser and main demonstrator of the organs when a dozen members of the Halifax Centre visited four rural Nova Scotia churches and their organs on Saturday 29 August 2009. Three of the instruments were built in 1971 and were formerly university practice organs and the fourth, the oldest surviving pipe organ in Nova Scotia, was built in 1826. The organs in St. James' Anglican Church, LaHave, and Wesley United Church, Petite Riviere, were by Hill Norman and Beard and were previously in the Dalhousie University Music Department; that in St. Mark's Anglican Church, Broad Cove, was a Hallman originally at Acadia University; and the fourth instrument, at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Crousetown, with one manual and four ranks, was built by James Wilson of London, England. At this last church it was a pleasure to be joined by Fr. Robert Crouse, who is credited with saving the organ some fifty years ago.

Saturday, 3 October 2009. St. Andrew's United Church was the venue for a session of Pedals, Pipes and Pizza organised and presented by the host organist, Kevin Parks. Those attending learned about the organ, had the opportunity of playing piano pieces on the organ, and were encouraged to apply to the Scholarship Fund for introductory organ lessons.

Monday 5 October 2009. A session on organ accompaniment presented by William Maddox, organist at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto, was the season's first Evening with a Colleague. Taking place at Bethany United Church with their new Rodgers organ, the event was followed the next evening by the inaugural recital also given by Mr Maddox.

Tuesday, October 6 – Ancillary Event – Organ Recital by William Maddox, Bethany United Church, 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 18 – Ancillary Event at the Invitation of the Early Music Society of NS - “Historic Keyboard Instruments on Display” - A complete panoply of instruments from the Baroque to the contemporary to hear and play. The combined venues of Bethany United and St. James Anglican at the Armdale Rotary: 2:30–5:00 pm

Friday, October 30 – The Phantom of the Pipes. A revival of this popular (and spooky) Hallowe’en event. Bring your costume and scare us all! Fort Massey United Church, 7:30 pm

Monday, December 7 – Carol Festival (Snow date December 8). The RCCO’s festive introduction to the Christmas Season, Cathedral Church of All Saints. Organ recital 7:00, Service 7:30 (Rehearsal, Saturday, Dec. 5, 2-4 pm) *Submitted by James Burchill*

PEI - No report at time of writing

Saint John - We met last Sunday, September 27 and are planning a Service in Honour of St. Cecilia on November 22nd. Some of our members together with their choir will provide anthems, and there will be congregational hymns interspersed with readings to be selected by our chaplain, Rev. Tom Graham and read by various ministers.

Also, our centre is planning to host a Regional Conference and Workshops on the weekend of October 1&2, 2010, that is now well into the planning stage. *Submitted by Norma Blanchet, Centre President*

Fredericton - We had our annual members recital on October 25. There were 9 participants playing a wide variety of music. The Cathedral is promoting 3 lunch time concerts in Advent - the first two by the cathedral organist and the cathedral assistant organist, the third by members of the RCCO/FOA. *Submitted by Peter Waterhouse*

Moncton - No Report at time of writing

REGION 2 (Quebec & Eastern Ontario)

Christopher Grocholski, Regional Director

Kingston Centre: As of July 31, 2009 National Centre reported that Kingston Centre had lost 10 members. One was an outright resignation, the others were dropped for non-payment of fees. Of the nine persons that were dropped, one person had died, and one moved out of the country. Five persons have since been re-instated, by reason of late renewal.

On Sunday, September 13th, the annual Kick-Off Party, held in the wilds of Frontenac County at the home of hosts Gord and Carol Ramer, took place, to the gastronomical delight of all 30 persons present. Attendees included members and their spouses, and invited friends.

Not yet held (at time of writing), but taking place Saturday, October 31 at Chalmers United Church in Kingston, is the Haunted Organ Event, an hour-long selection of spooky music and readings. Last year this event attracted about 100 persons, many of whom were Queen’s University students.

Not yet held, but planned since the Centennial Convention in July, is the Tri-Centre Event, to which members from the Montreal and Ottawa Centres have been invited. It will take place Saturday, November 14, from 10.30 a.m. until 4.00 p.m., at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in downtown Kingston. Stephanie Martin, a 2009-10 RCCO National Travelling Clinician, will give a presentation on the life and legacy of Healey Willan, demonstrate Music Old and New at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Toronto, and conclude with a choral workshop. Thirty attendees are currently expected. *Submitted by The Rev. John Uttley, Centre President*

Montreal Centre: Sept 13 the centre held a successful Wine and Cheese / Vin d'honneur, with a good number of members, non members from the wider music community in Montreal, and students (both members and potential members). First Vice-President Gilles Leclerc was on hand for this bilingual event. Details of the centre's upcoming programmes were revealed, and the 2009 Montreal Centre Distinguished Service Awards were presented. To catch up for previous years where no award was given, and in honour of the College's 100th anniversary, four recipients were named this year: Bertha Dorval, Noella Genest, Dr. John Grew, and Karl Raudsepp. Also presented was the 2009 RCCO Montreal Centre President's Award of Distinction (External) to former Montreal Centre Member (and current Ottawa Centre Member) David Huddelson.

Various members of the Montreal Centre presented these awards with Les Ami de l'orgue member Dany Wiseman accepting in absentia for Noella Genest, and Ottawa Centre President, Tom Annand accepted in absentia for David Huddlesson.

Also, Letourneau Orgues celebrated their 30th anniversary with an open house on Oct. 3. in their St. Hyacinthe atelier. The unique console and "forest of wood and metal display pipes" (as pictured on the back cover of Sept. issue of Organ Canada) destined for Oakland, California was enjoyed by several members of the Montreal Centre and also several members of the Ottawa Centre - reinforcing our aim to enjoy collaborative events.

During the Fall the Centre continued a successful programme initiated in 2008 of a weekly course "Introduction to Music Theory & Music Reading". Facilitated by centre Membership Chair, Fred Francis, this outreach course is aimed at amateur or potential choir members who would like to improve their music reading skills. The course began Sept 15 and runs to Dec 8.

Along with the Ottawa Centre, the Montreal Centre is looking forward to participating in the Tri-Centre Choral workshop in Kingston on Nov 14.

Upcoming events include a children's choir day camp running concurrent with an adult choir programme working towards a next-day Ecumenical Service for Earth Day, and a slightly re-vamped Lynnwood Farnam Organ Competition, in the spring, previously usually held during November.

The centre is also addressing the dynamic of the future partnership of the organist and clergy person. Centre Chaplain, the Rev. Gwenda Wells, Jonathan Oldengarm and President Scott Bradford met during the Fall with the Joint Board of the Theological Colleges at McGill in the aim of coordinating an event together where a dialogue is begun between organ and theology students. Some skepticism of this project was expressed but the centre participants were very encouraged to be invited to begin the conversation. There will certainly be more to report in the near future.

Ottawa Centre: Ottawa centre held an opening "MEMBERS SOCIAL AND BBQ" on Sept 20. Location was Bill Vineer's residence, home of the Vineer Organ Library. Participants were encouraged to browse through the library's extensive collections. Bill also gave an overview of his ongoing project to document the organs of Eastern Ontario and beyond. This event was very successful, and there were many participants in attendance who had never been to an event before (apparently one of the bonuses of the event was the opportunity to use Bill's "fancy new BBQ").

The Centre's second programme was "VISIT THE DOMINION CARILLONNEUR" (in the peace tower on Parliament Hill). This reportedly worked out as a good link with the wider

musical circle of Ottawa - - the tour was available in two “seatings” on September 28th and 29th. Dr Andrea McCrady, Peace tower Carillonneur, hosted centre members, gave an overview of her job and the carillon and then played her daily 15 minute recital at 12:00 noon. Afterwards, she explained the development of the repertoire for the instrument, and how carillon music is arranged and played.

The centre held an event called “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy plays JS Bach” on Friday Oct 2 at Knox Presbyterian Church, in celebration of the 200th Birthday of Felix Mendelssohn. The first half of the recital was a reconstruction of Mendelssohn’s “famous all-Bach recital” that he played at the Thomaskirche in 1840 to raise funds for a monument to Bach. This was arranged with the assistance of Dr William Little who also sent a reproduction of the concert notice that had been posted on the doors of the Thomaskirche in advance of the recital. This was on display at the concert. The second half featured a variety of Mendelssohn’s works for organ. The recitalists were centre members Jennifer Loveless, Robert Jones, and Thomas Annand. Pierre Brault, a very well known actor played the role of Mendelssohn, reading excerpts from Mendelssohn’s “copious” writings this reportedly pulled in people from the theatre community.

On Sat Oct 3 the centre offered a road trip to the “OPEN HOUSE AT LETOURNEAU” open house at the Letourneau Factory in Saint-Hyacinthe. The open house was in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the firm. The same was attended by a group of the Montreal membership. After the party, Ottawa members visited the organ at the Cathedral in Saint-Hyacinthe and the Warren organ at St. Steven’s church, Chambly.

On Monday Oct 5 Karen Holmes facilitated the Centre’s programme: “Preparing for The RCCO Service Playing Exam”. The programme, held at St Peter’s Lutheran. Karen explained the requirements, had copies on hand of old papers and the suggested hymns and anthems, and had useful suggestions about how to work on sight-reading and transposing. The event was geared both at those considering attempting the exam and teachers.

The centre held a Halloween concert “SPOOKY TUNES, MACABRE MELODIES, & HAUNTING HARMONIES” on Friday Oct 30 at Woodroffe United Church. Attendees were promised to “Expect all the clichés including the grand daddy of all spooky music: Bach’s *“Toccatà and Fugue in d minor”*. Five organists participated including: Karen Holmes, Katarina Jovic, Teresa van den Boogaard, Thomas Annand and Gilles Leclerc. Karen played two variations from Ruth Watson Henderson’s *Chromatic Partita* and Albert Alain’s *Scherzo*. Tom played the *Toccatà and Fugue in d minor* and Alan Ridout’s *It is Finished* (a work for pedals only). Gilles accompanied the reading of a story book for the children who attended, and also improvised on a theme from Harry Potter: *Hogwart’s Hymn*. Teresa played Boëllmann’s *Prière à Notre Dame* and Katarina played *Spiders* from Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. The audience was also asked to join in the singing of a ‘scarol’: *The Seven Days of Halloween*. The head of Children’s Services at the Ottawa Library was host for the evening. The entrance was free but donations towards the young organists scholarships were invited.

The Ottawa Centre’s Pro Organo series continued this season with a programme featuring Maxine Thévenot, at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica. The pieces in the first half were written by Ontario composers; Jeanne Landry, Andrew Ager, Ruth Watson Henderson, John Burge and Victor Togni. Included was the Ottawa premiere of Ager’s *Toccatà Op.30*. The second half included French composers Dupré, Demessieux, Vierne, Messaien, and Litaize.

Upcoming events include attendance at the earlier mentioned tri-centre choral event in Kingston, a panel discussion discussing the rise and place of praise bands in contemporary

worship, a Nov.21 workshop to assist church musicians in working with small choirs, finding appropriate repertoire, and working with clergy and church volunteers. Also coming is a Nov 23rd “pub” evening... the centre will take over a bar and watch DVD’s and Youtube videos that are organ related (not clear if permission will be sought from the owner or if it will be a hostile takeover), and a members’ recital of Christmas music, this year focussing on Germany (last year it was France). *Respectfully Submitted by Chris Grocholski, collaboration from Scott Bradford, president Montreal Centre, Thomas Annand president Ottawa Centre, Ian Mackay, Programme, Ottawa Centre*

REGION 3 (Central Ontario)

Joanne Hart, Regional Director

Simcoe-Muskoka: In September the Centre attended a Choral Evensong, celebrating Healey Willan, performed by the prize winning St. Mary Magdalene Choir with Stephanie Martin, conductor. This was part of the Colours of Music Festival in Barrie. A Hymn Update Workshop with Kenneth Inkster was held in October. In January they will meet at the home of Corinne MacDonald for a business meeting and to view the DVD of her trip to England. A Hymn Sing will be held in April and the AGM in June.

Durham: Because of the new regional boundaries, about half the members of the Durham Centre have been transferred to another district, with only a few left to keep the centre alive. Admirably, they have decided to stay together and to meet occasionally. With a very small membership, each member must assume responsibilities; thus it is very important to try to recruit new members to share these duties.

Northumberland: An anthem reading session was held at the end of October. Four noon-hour concerts are planned for the month of December, with centre members participating. Each year a \$500.00 scholarship is available; however, for the past two years there have been no applicants. The scholarship provides for ten 1 hour lessons or twenty 1/2 hour lessons. In Lent, eminent composer RCCO member Ruth Watson Henderson, her daughter and granddaughter will present a Lenten program

Toronto: A wrap-up meeting for the Centenary International Organ Festival was held in September. Reports were excellent and the committee felt that the festival exceeded expectations in attendance, etc. and was well worth the three years plus of meetings and work involved. It was felt that June seems to be a good month for conventions. The AGM was held in September, rather than in June, as is customary. The additional time was needed to gather all convention details. On October 2 the Organ Horizons series continued with a recital by Kola Owalabi at Glenview Presbyterian Church. On November 2 David Enlow will present a recital at Metropolitan United Church. It is hoped that Council members arriving early to attend the meeting in Brantford on November 3 will attend. On February 26 organist Phillippe Belanger will play on the new Casavant organ at All Saints’ Kingsway Anglican Church. Michael Unger will be the featured artist on April 16, playing the organ at Lawrence Park Community Church. Other programs are planned for the Centre for the 2009-10 season.

REGION 4 (Southern Ontario)

Patrick Carter, Regional Director

This autumn has begun with energy and enthusiasm throughout the Southern Ontario Region, with all four Centres in Region 4 hosting events to welcome new members and look forward to the year ahead.

Niagara Peninsula – The season began in September with a potluck meal and organ demonstration at the home of Dianne Humann. Members were able to explore her new electronic instrument and its many tonal possibilities (first a Cavaille-Coll, then a Silbermann, then a Skinner) as Dianne and others demonstrated its potential in an informal recital. This event will be followed by an organ crawl in Welland on 7 November, with participants visiting three local churches.

Waterloo-Wellington – The year's programme opened with a recital at St Peter's Lutheran Church in Kitchener by Peter Nikiforuk, and the Centre is looking ahead to the next music event – a recital by former McGill students in Cambridge in mid November.

Brantford – Members of the Centre met for a potluck dinner at the home of the President, Murray Clarke in September. In addition a time of fellowship, the meeting focused on finalizing arrangements for the special National Council meeting in Brantford on 7 November, and for the Centennial Gala Recital at St Andrew's Church the following day. This has naturally been the focus of the Centre's activities, but further events are planned for January.

Hamilton – The Hamilton Centre met for its traditional September wine and cheese to renew acquaintances and inaugurate a new season. The party included a music sale by members to raise funds for the 2011 Convention. Attention is now focused on the upcoming members' recital at Ryerson United Church in Hamilton on Sunday 8 November, with a programme featuring a selection of personal favourites and overlooked gems. Finally, planning is proceeding apace for the national convention in July 2011, when Hamilton will welcome RCCO members and friends from across Canada.

REGION 5 (Western Ontario)

Ronald Fox, Regional Director

The **London** and **Windsor** centres are active. **Chatham**, **Stratford** and **Bluewater** are not active. **Grey Bruce** probably has some activity.

REGION 6 (Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario)

Kerrine Wilson, Regional Director

Thunder Bay Centre is hosting our 7th Annual Choral Thursday on Nov. 12. This year's event will be held at First Presbyterian Church and we presently have 11 churches that have registered to participate. Each participating choir performs an anthem of their choice and then the entire group participates in two massed choir numbers which we chose for them. One of the anthems we will work on is 'He That Endures' to commemorate Mendelssohn's 200th birthday. A coffee hour follows the event.

We will be auditioning four applicants for our Scholarship Program on November 21.

Plans are being formulated for a recital and workshop on January 29/30 with our Travelling

Clinician, Jan Overduin. The event will take place at St. Paul's United Church. *Submitted by Carol Wehrstedt, Centre President*

Since last spring, **Winnipeg** Centre has continued to be active. Our June Organ Fete "The Battle of the Organs" was well attended and received. On that evening, our audience was given the opportunity to hear brief recitals on a Baroque Mechanical Action instrument (First Presbyterian Church - Michael McKay, organist), a large Romantic instrument (Knox United Church, Barry Anderson, organist) and a state of the art digital instrument (St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Russell Greene, organist). In the spirit of fun, the romantic instrument won the popularity contest by a very narrow margin!

The August Recital Series was also well attended and received. Organists Lynn Mavins, Duane Gaukel, Lottie Enns-Braun, and Dietrich Bartel played diverse and splendid programs to substantial audiences on the wonderful three-manual Casavant organ in All Saints Anglican Church. All Saints is a wonderful venue for this series. Not only do they provide a warm welcome to us to their beautiful building, but their location is very close to the exciting vibe of a summer lunch hour on Broadway. What a wonderful way to spend Thursday lunch-hours in August!

Our fall barbecue at the home of Henk and Marcia Schippers was a happy occasion to share in collegial fellowship as work resumed.

Our most recent offering was tremendously successful. On Friday, October 30, 130 people gathered at St. John's Anglican Cathedral to tour the historic cemetery, share in a joyous pizza dinner, and be treated to a special program of spooky organ music meant to be an appropriate accompaniment to Hallowe'en. Organists Michael Cutler, Mike McKay, Lynn Mavins, Tom Packham and Russell Greene (accompanied by his grandson's drumming!) certainly brought out the eerie side of the cathedral organ to the delight of the large audience.

Of course, work has resumed as well, the executive has resumed its regular meetings as well as the other committees. Upcoming events include a recital by Michael Cutler at St. James Anglican Church on November 22 and a recital by our own Colin Redekop (unfortunately, our loss, Calgary's gain) at the Church of St, Michael and All Angels on January 2, 2010. Colin's recital will be followed by our annual Epiphany pot-luck at the home of Sylvia Scott Wortley. *Submitted by Tom Packham, Centre President.*

Region 7 (Prairies)

(Vacant), Regional Director

Calgary Centre: No report at time of printing.

Edmonton Centre: Despite some growth in membership numbers, Edmonton Centre continues to operate without an official Treasurer despite several pleas to members. The former treasurer has agreed to be Acting Treasurer and the tasks associated with the position are being shared out between the President and the Acting Treasurer which is working well.

Our twice-postponed hymnfest on Creation finally came to fruition on September 27 at First Presbyterian Church. Members from several city church choirs participated. A free will donation was taken with proceeds to go to the Centre's scholarship program.

Scholarships Chair, Dr. Kobie Kloppers, has booked auditions for scholarships for November 14. There are candidates for all three levels of our scholarship program – Beginning Organists, of which there are several candidates, The Harry Farmer Scholarship for continued organ

studies, and the Eileen Gordon Bishop Scholarship, for working organists to use toward further education or workshops.

The Sundays @ Three organ recital series launches its 2009/2010 season on November 8 with Kimberly Marshall of the Arizona State University School of Music. Other recitals in the season include, David Higgs on January 10 and Aaron Tan on May 2.

I'm sorry that I couldn't join you for this historic meeting in Brantford where it all began. Have a great meeting!

Regina: This has been a period of co-operation between some of the prairie centres. I received a request from John Botari and Bill Thurmeier in Saskatoon to assist with a visit to the province by Maxine Thévenot. The intent was that she should perform in Regina, Saskatoon and Lake Lenore in October. I made arrangements that she should perform at Holy Rosary in the Cathedral Music Series. Several members of the Regina Centre assisted with tuning the organ, publicising the concert, working on the door and assisting Maxine at the console. Her very enjoyable performance of Canadian and French works was attended by approximately 110 people.

At the time of the publication of the RCCO 100th Anniversary volume in June it was noted that the prairie chapter written by me lacked a study of Calgary. This was because I had received no assistance from that Centre during my work. Members of the new Calgary executive, notably Chellan Hoffman, and the book's editor Stephanie Martin invited me to prepare a section on that Centre for a second impression of the book. I spent several days in Calgary, hosted by Chellan, collecting material. I received a great deal of help from many members of the Calgary Centre and very useful documentary and oral evidence. I completed the section on Calgary which is now in the hands of the editor. *Submitted by Robin Swales, Centre President*

Saskatoon: On September 10th, the Saskatoon Centre held an electronic Annual General Meeting to elect a new President to replace Janet Wilson, who had retired from the position earlier in the year. John Botari was elected to the position on a pro tempore basis, pending the organization of a full face-to-face meeting.

In mid-October, the Centre joined with the Regina Centre in hosting a homecoming recital series for organist Maxine Thevenot. Three concerts were organized:

- Regina, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Wednesday, October 14th, 7:30 p.m.
- Saskatoon, St. John's Anglican Cathedral, Monday, October 19th, 7:30 p.m.
- Lake Lenore, St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, Friday, October 23rd, 7:00 p.m.

The last-mentioned event was a benefit concert organized in co-operation with St. Anthony's parish. Its intent was to raise funds for some much-needed restoration work on the organ at St. Anthony's. This church was the location of Maxine Thevenot's first posting as a church organist, and the instrument, a small 1927 Casavant, is one of the last remaining all-original tubular pneumatic organs in Saskatchewan.

The three recitals in the series were the first that Dr. Thevenot had played in Saskatchewan since her departure to further her musical education almost two decades ago. *Submitted by John Botari, Centre President, pro tempore.*

Region 8 (Pacific)

Sam Balden, Regional Director

Victoria Centre: Sun. Aug. 9 – Potluck barbecue supper at the home of secretary Fran Pollet for our Organ Festival Committee – a great time to connect and gear up for an exciting year ahead.

Sun. Sept. 20 – Welcome back fall potluck barbecue supper hosted by secretary Fran Pollet. We were very pleased to welcome a number of new members and guests. It was a great response, with 30 people in attendance.

Sat. Oct. 24 – Members' Organ Concert at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Oak Bay. This event was a fundraiser for our July 2010 Organ Festival. Organists Geoffrey Thornburn – Retired Church Organist, Rosemary Laing - Provincial Carillonneur, Curtis Bergen – Host Church Organist & Music Director, Jennifer Mitchell – University Student, Tristan Rhodes - Director of Music St. Paul's Anglican Esquimalt & Frank Cammisulli – Butchart Gardens Resident Organist performed a wonderful variety of music including composers Marchand, J. S. Bach, Gigout, Mathias, Bedard, Mulet, Reger, Maekelburghi and Benoit. A good crowd enjoyed this two manual Casavant.

Excitement is building, and we are encouraged by the people who are joining our ranks as we prepare to host the national organ festival here in Victoria in July 2010. Our centre is very much focused on fundraising this year, with 5 events planned specifically to that end. We are spreading the word and our convention committee is hard at work. We look forward to welcoming you all to our City of Gardens! *Submitted by Dorothy Froese, Centre President.*

Vancouver Centre: The AGM was held on June 21st at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church to plan for the upcoming year, followed by refreshments and a chance to socialize. Rachel Alflatt, Frank Ezinga, Tamar Genossar and Haruyo Shikano Abramson were respectively re-elected president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary of the centre. Members at large of the executive are Sam Balden, Michael Molnar and Bob North.

The seventh annual RCCO members' summer BBQ was held on July 25, hosted by Sam and Mary Balden. A very good time was had by all, and the event ended with an organ and organist themed limerick competition.

An organ crawl to Westminster Abbey in Mission, BC, took place on October 24. The resident organist, Fr. Basil Foote, gave everyone a warm welcome and demonstrated the organ. Sam Balden read a short history of the organ (written by Fr. Foote), and everyone had a chance to try the instrument, after which Fr. Foote kindly provided refreshments. The afternoon ended with a walk around the beautiful Abbey grounds and farm.

The 4th annual RCCO Halloween Concert took place on October 30 at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church in downtown Vancouver (many thanks to organist Darryl Nixon for facilitating this). This event was publicised by the local Vancouver newspapers and was well attended. Performers were Rachel Alflatt, Denis Bedard, Michael Blais, Michael Dirk, Tamar Genossar, Gerald Harder, John Mitchell and David Poon. As well as the Bach D minor and the Boëllmann Toccata, the programme included Enrico Bossi's Scherzo, a duet by Franz Lachner, improvisations on the Dies Irae, Phantom of the Opera and the Simpsons, and a theme from the Da Vinci Code. Spooky sound effects and decorations, and Halloween stories, poems and jokes were provided by Sam Balden. Following the concert, the audience and performers were treated to Halloween goodies by organizer Cindy Leung. *Submitted by Rachel Alflatt, Centre President.*