



THE ROYAL CANADIAN  
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN  
DES ORGANISTES

SECTION DE WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE

## QUARTER NOTES

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

## CHATHAM CORNER

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



Christmas, 2024

## President's Message

We've had an exhilarating few months, culminating in the triumphant Pipe Organ Concert, "Echoes of Angels," on October 27 at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Windsor. This followed the unexpected non-concert on September 29. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made it possible: from those who savored the spaghetti dinner, to the talented organists, to the dedicated individuals who meticulously prepared and repaired the instrument for its finest performance. Let's not forget the unsung heroes who crafted scripts, designed announcements and posters, and set up the captivating visual projections.

While the primary goal of the concert was to spotlight the ongoing pipe organ restoration at Assumption, it also achieved a wonderful secondary outcome. It united our RCCO community in presenting a diverse and captivating program of organ pieces, ensuring that every musical taste was delighted.

Last month, many of you took part in a survey aimed at shedding light on the current working conditions for church musicians in Windsor Essex.

Attached, you'll find a summary of the insights gathered from the survey. I encourage you to pay special attention to the final paragraph of the summary:

"This survey was conducted under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Windsor Essex RCCO Centre to inform its members of standards and practices across the region. Members are invited to use this information at their discretion. While the survey may not have been scientifically designed, it has served the purpose of informing and

sharing within the RCCO community. Where appropriate, church musicians may communicate this information and initiate conversations with church personnel about roles, accountability and performance reviews/salary adjustments. This dialogue is essential for recognizing the valuable contributions of church musicians and ensuring they receive fair and equitable remuneration for their dedication and service."

This information is for your benefit. The Executive Committee is eager to hear your feedback and create a space where our members can share experiences and ideas. With that in mind, we're proposing an online 'Chat Time.' We'll get back to you soon with a suggested date and time.

The Organist/Clergy dinner was well attended on November 22nd. The aim of the event was to help create a meaningful working relationship between clergy and their respective church musicians. The Rev. Canon Ann Smith was the moderator. She is uniquely suited to this role because in addition to being a clergy, she has many years of experience as a church organist.

Preparing for this discussion, a number of us have read the book "Rivals or a Team? Clergy-Musician Relationships in the Twenty-First Century" by Eileen Guenther. The book explores the dynamics between clergy and musicians within the Christian church. It emphasizes the importance of collaboration and teamwork to enhance the ministry's effectiveness with em-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Executive Committee

### Windsor Essex Centre

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### Chatham Centre

President: NANCY TAPLEY

Secretary/Treasurer: KEITH GROEN

Membership : DON POLE

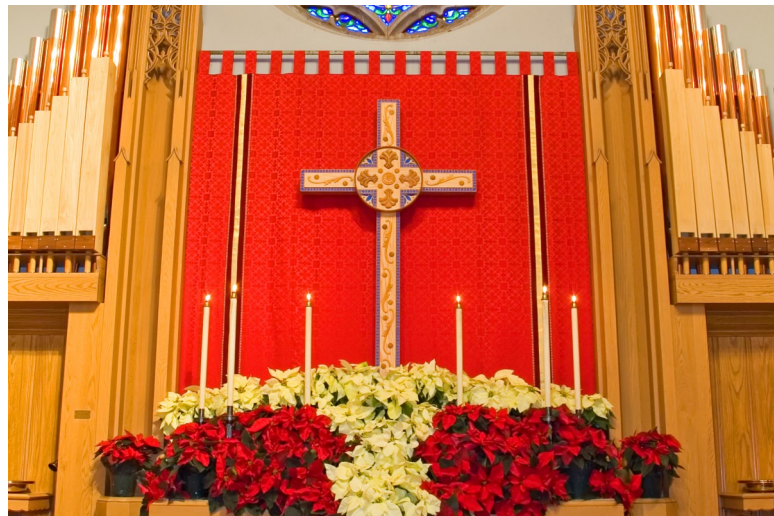
Member-at-large: IAN MASON

## Land acknowledgement

We of the Windsor-Essex RCCO Centre acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lenni, Lenape and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy (Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Huron/Wendat) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

The following Overriding Principle approved by the RCCO Board of Directors in its Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024:

We are firmly committed to inclusion, diversity, and equity at all levels of the organization. We believe our work is enhanced by engaging a diverse community of individuals with different backgrounds, skills, opinions, and perspectives, thereby cultivating a welcoming environment of open communication, inclusion, and respect and we will strive to seek representation from Black, Indigenous, People of Colour and other underrepresented and equity-seeking communities in leadership roles and throughout our organization.



(Continued from page 1)

phasis on building respect and understanding and effective communications. If you are interested, this book can be easily ordered from Amazon. [Click here](#)

I would like to draw attention to our second annual Posada in Kingsville on December 14th at 7:00 pm. It will be like last year's posada with the addition this year of more authentic representation of this long-standing Latin tradition, including a children's choir singing in Spanish and a local Spanish-speaking singer will delight us with her original renditions of Christmas songs. The Posada starts at Epworth United Church (56 Division Street South) and proceeds to The Church of the Epiphany (98 Mainn Street West) after which refreshments will be served. All church congregations in Kingsville are invited as well as the public at large. Please plan on attending. If you would like to participate by playing organ/piano or singing, please contact Dale Burkholder or myself.

Advent is already on our doorsteps and with the coming of Advent, we church musicians double down on our efforts to highlight music during this time leading up to Christmas. Despite everyone's 'busyness' it is my hope that you will take time to enjoy the season, gather your family and close friends around you as you observe and celebrate.

From our home to yours, may you have a Wonderful and Joyous Christmas and New Year.



## Website Down

We are migrating our website to a new provider. The migration will take place between December 22 and January 1, 2025. We hope to minimize the impact on your part. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

## Mark You Calendars

### PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS

Starting Sunday December 1

Virtual Organ Concert

Link on our website and will be sent out as a 32nd note

### Kingsville 2nd Annual Posada

Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 pm

Epworth United Church and the Church of Epiphany, Kingsville

All are invited to participate

### RCCO Pub Night

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

February 28, 2025

Stay tuned for details

### On the horizon in 2025

An organ crawl

Pops and Pipes





## Grace notes!

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Cathy Collins-Barker, Chaplain*

### GRACE NOTES

Ministry in today's church settings takes on many facets. Recently, several Members of the RCCO-Windsor Chapter attended the Celebration Service of 150 years held on Saturday October 19 in Essex United Church. Those present were entreated to Brian Sweetman's history of this church building which has withstood the test of time, challenge and change intermixed with music of different genres and eras.

Also included were community members singing as the (Camp) Gesstwood Choir, a men's vocal ensemble and guest organists and pianists. With mixed emotions, the people of this church closed this building for worship services the next day. But it was in hearing "Adagio for Strings" by Barber, played by Ron Dossenbach which refocused my thoughts and prayers about the challenge of change and loss. Jeremiah's words in Lamentations 3: 22-24 state:

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

And this is what we call grace. No matter what we are facing- challenges, losses, struggles, stress, anxieties, God is with us and the Spirit will guide us in all ways. This is what keeps us willing to serve others as musicians and clergy in the church established by Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker is the RCCO Windsor Essex Chaplain and is available to speak with you about any ministry concerns you may have. It is my hope that I may get to know you and share with you God's grace as you minister to others through the many blessings God has given you! Please email me [cjcb19@gmail.com](mailto:cjcb19@gmail.com)



## United Church Anniversary

*By: Richard Helmer*

As you All know by now The United Churches across Canada will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary next year.

As chair of the Windsor Essex County United Churches(WECUC) we are having a joint Church Service to celebrate this anniversary on June 1/25 at Gesstwood Camp.

We are going to have a Mass Choir under the direction of Karen Price who has chosen the two anthems that the mass choir will sing. On Sept 10th(Tues.) those 2 anthems will be made know at the meeting of WECUC at Glenwood United Church Windsor at 7 pm. If you are a part of the United Church and would like your choir to be apart of this mass choir on June 1, kindly note the date and come to the meeting.

# Prelude to Christmas (2024)

*Virtual organ concert starting  
December 1*

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

Windsor-Essex Chapter



## RCCO Organist-Clergy Dinner held November 22, 2024

As people gathered at LA Town Grill in LaSalle there was joy in coming together and reflect upon ministry. With organists-music directors sitting with their ministry colleagues, conversation was lively and hopeful with introductions focusing on where we each serve and in what capacity.

Karen Price, Membership chair welcomed everyone and RCCO Chaplain Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker shared in grace as we began our meals. An enjoyable dinner was served with caring staff and the energy in the room was exuberant!

Following dinner, Karen shared information about the RCCO and why it is important for clergy and organists- music directors need to work as teams. Karen then introduced the Rev. Canon Ann Smith who led the group in discussions about the unique relationship we share in ministry. With the entire group, we were able to share and hear stories of ministry situations which have worked well and why; what it means to be in the moment, and how clergy and musicians complement each other for the spiritual experience of all. Some stories were poignant and thought- provoking, others caused us to laugh and rejoice knowing that we are truly blessed. A reminder to all is that we must work as a team as our focus is not on us but the One we serve. Rev. Cathy closed the gathering with prayer.

With many favourable comments over a great meal and lively discussion, it is hoped that this type of gathering will be held again.

# Viaje a Belén

## Posada in Kingsville



**We will start at Epworth United Church**

**7:00 PM**

**56 Division Street**

**Enjoying the music of Advent**

**Then journey to Church of the Epiphany**

**106 Main street West**

**To enjoy the music of Christmas**

**with refreshments to follow**



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# May 17, 2025

FUNdraising Dinner and Concert  
are in the works  
to celebrate  
Dale Burkholder's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

*More details to follow*

## New opportunity to create music

*Submitted by Dale Burkholder, Silver Bells Director*

Have you heard or seen handbell choirs.

Silver Bells has opening for new ringers.

It is a fun way of making music and getting some exercise at the same time. We rehearse on Tuesday afternoons 1:30 to 3:30 in the basement of Emmanuel United Church. There will never be a conflict with Sunday mornings. If you are interested please contact me.





**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024**

**4:00 PM**



# Ring we now of Christmas

*A handbell concert*

## **Silver Bells**



Emmanuel United Church  
1728 Lincoln Road,  
Windsor, Ontario

(Parking at Lincoln Road and Mohawk Street)

**[www.SilverBellsWindsor.com](http://www.SilverBellsWindsor.com)**

**Guests: Epworth United Church Choir**

**Donations Gratefully accepted**



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*Presents*

# A Dickens Christmas

— — — — —  
DIRECTOR EMERITUS: PAUL WHARRAM

CO-CONDUCTOR: JOHN WOODBRIDGE

ACCOMPANIST: OLGA NESTERENKO  
— — — — —



LEAMINGTON

NOV. 23 @ 7PM

FAITH MENNONITE

NOV. 24 @ 3PM

CHURCH



HARROW

DEC 1 @ 3PM

HARROW UNITED

CHURCH

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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.*





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

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

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*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:

Ben Schinkel, Treasurer  
Windsor-Essex Centre, RCCO  
103 Kimball Drive  
Essex, ON  
N8M 0B7

Email: [organ@start.ca](mailto:organ@start.ca)