

**Grey Bruce Centre**

**Report of the President**

**20 January 2019**



*Encourage • Educate • Enjoy*

Dear members and friends:

Blessed New Year!

There are several things pertaining to our meeting this Sunday at St Mark's, Chesley:

*The Prayer Issue*

You saw the letter I recently wrote to National on our Centre's behalf, regarding our thoughts and feelings about prayer at our business meetings.

Rick wrote me a gracious letter in reply on January 4; here are its core paragraphs:

*Thanks for all your comments. Please note that National Council made a "recommendation" — and your decision to continue with prayer at your business meetings is really entirely up to you. It was not a directive. I have no problem with your decision.*

*As far as I know, Board of Directors meeting minutes are not confidential, and I should be able to tell you who made the motion and who seconded it. I do know it was passed unanimously, after considerable discussion.*

*I must say that this is not a "Toronto problem" or Christians "apologizing" for being Christian. It has nothing to do with this. The RCCO is an organization of organists, and organists work in churches and synagogues and in concert halls and other places. Some organists have no religious affiliation at all. Some organists who work in churches have little or no religious/Christian affiliation also! We are a diverse group - and hope to be even more diverse in the future. The RCCO is not a religious organization and is just trying to make sure it is an "organists" organization — and that membership in the organization will appeal to as broad an audience as possible.*

*If prayer before meetings in your centre is appropriate for your centre, that is great and you should continue the practice.*

*As a practising Christian and organist and director of music in an Anglican parish with a very long and strong "cathedral" music tradition, I understand the dilemma for the RCCO. It has always seemed to me that the RCCO was an association of church organists, but this was probably never 100% true, and will likely to become even less true in the future, if the organization is to survive.*

*There will always be room for centres to make decisions on matters that are important for centres, and "work" for the centres.*

President's Report  
January 2019  
p2

So:

Our National President is giving his blessing to us reasonably doing things in the way that makes sense for GBRCCO, for which I have thanked him on our behalf.

#### *National's Strategic Plan*

Satomi already wrote you about this, and included both the website address where it may be found and our own relevant bylaws. Please come prepared to make some comment about this.

#### *Budget*

As Hilery mentioned at our June AGM, GBRCCO has never had one!

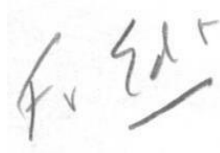
Still, there are annual expenses accrued in running our Centre—the ones that come to my mind immediately are the website (north of \$500 yearly), our Centre scholarships (\$1000 for two) and the Harmonies programs (\$250). We need to talk about this as we set our Centre fees at this meeting.

#### *Weather*

How unpredictable this winter! If there's a snowstorm on the 20<sup>th</sup>, let's reschedule for the 27<sup>th</sup>!

Looking forward as always to greeting you once again—

Blessings—

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. Ed" with a stylized flourish underneath.



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

## GREY-BRUCE CENTRE

*Encourage • Educate • Enjoy*

**Sunday, 20 January, 2019, St Mark's Church, Chesley**

**Snow Date: Sunday, 27 January**

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 4.00pm | Meet and Greet, examine/play the 1919 Casavant/1949 Keates/2014 Tite, with Classic Organs solid-state console workings   |
| 5.00   | Potluck Supper   |
| 6.00   | <b>Education Component: All Toe Pedalling, taught by Dwayne Hachman</b>  |
| 6.45   | Adoption of Business Meeting Agenda  |
| 6.50   | Minutes of November, 2018  |
| 6.55   | <b>Our Local GBRCCO Strategic Plan</b>   |
| 7.25   | <b>A GBRCCO Budget?</b>  |
| 7.45   | Ongoing Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travelling Clinician (Gertrude Weber)</li><li>• Float in Community Parades (Dwayne Hachman, John Tite)</li><li>• Local Orgelkit (John Tite)</li><li>• Owen Sound BALL presentation (Julian Delf)</li><li>• 2019 GROW Week</li></ul> |
| 8.00   | Reports (President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, Website, Membership)   |
| 8.25   | Adjourn  |

<p><i>Next meetings: April 7 @ Kincardine United; June 23 (Annual Meeting) @ Durham, the Dickinson's</i></p> <p><i>Please let Fr Ed know of agenda items you wish added the Tuesday before the Sunday of the next meeting</i></p>
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