

RCCO - Grey Bruce Centre Meeting - draft
Sunday, September 15th, 2019
St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Walkerton, ON

Present: President, Marilyn Dickson; Vice-President/Web Master, Julian Delf; Secretary/Treasurer, Satomi Currah; Immediate Past President, Fr Ed Wagner; Fiona Evison, Azrael Hackshaw, David Hamilton, Hilery McAlpine, Ian McAlpine, Laura McAlpine, Richard Smith, John Tite, Marjorie Tite, Steve Tite, Gertrude Weber, Jennifer McAlpine.

At 4:00 p.m., the door of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Walkerton was opened by Ian. We met and greeted, and examined/played the 1903 Lye tracker action organ in the sanctuary. At 5:05 p.m., Ian led grace before our pot-luck supper.

At 6:00 p.m., Marilyn called the meeting to order and thanked Hilery, organist for St. Thomas, for accommodating us at such short notice¹.

Marilyn said that, unlike her predecessors', her president's report would only be circulated before meetings in special circumstances and went on to verbally present a summary of what had happened following the AGM in June, i.e., June 9th - September 14th, 2019. Marilyn thanked Satomi for opening a new RBC account in July, and for arranging the September 5th Council meeting at Yuumi's condo in Owen Sound. Dwayne will continue as Membership Coordinator but David declined nomination as Member-at-large, leaving the position vacant. Ashton, national RCCO beginner scholarship awardee 2018-2019, had lessons this summer (after graduating from high school), and is enrolled in a Music Performance program, Cambrian College, Sudbury. Marilyn welcomed by phone Fiona and Andrew as new members, and obtained positive feedback about the Halifax Festival Summer Organ Academy from Anna who attended. The centre meeting place for September was changed from St. Mary's Catholic, Owen Sound, which is under renovation, to St. Thomas' Anglican, Walkerton, which had been chosen as November's meeting place. Marilyn learned that national RCCO office is working through changes to their record-keeping and this is causing frustrations for some centre members.

¹ Original plan was to have the September meeting at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Owen Sound. However, the church was going through renovation, and the plan needed to be changed in September.

Fr Ed moved adoption of agenda, Julian seconded. All in favour. Carried.

Marilyn asked whether the minutes from the AGM on June 9th at Marilyn's residence in Durham should be read aloud. There was no request for it. Satomi pointed out an error; the next AGM will be held on June 28th rather than 29th. John moved the minutes to be approved with the correction of the date of AGM 2020. Julian seconded. Carried.

1. Revised Meeting Dates and Locations for 2019-2020

We had planned at the AGM to have the September 2019 meeting at St. Mary's Catholic, Owen Sound, the November 2019 meeting at St. Thomas' Anglican, Walkerton, the January 2020 meeting at First St. Matthew's Lutheran, Hanover, the March 2020 meeting at Christ Church, Lion's Head, and the AGM 2020 at Grace House, Holland Centre. Because we learned earlier in September that St. Mary's will not be available, the location of the September meeting was changed to St. Thomas' Anglican, the original November meeting site. So a new location for the November meeting was required. (St. Mary's is not available until after Christmas).

John suggested the November meeting could be held at First St. Matthew's instead of St. Thomas' Anglican, and the January meeting at St. Mary's instead of First St. Matthews, all with back-up of St. Mark's, Chesley. Marilyn to inquire if First St. Matthew's and St. Mary's are available.

Dates of centre meetings are often the third Sunday of the month, but some people have on-going commitments on these days. To ensure attendance by everyone, it might be better to be more flexible.

At 6:20 p.m., Fiona, who joined the RCCO in June this year, started her presentation "***From Art Music to Heart Music: The Role of the Composer in Community Music***" without audio/visual aids due to technical incompatibilities.

She invited everyone to her presentation/concert 2:30 p.m., Saturday September 21st at Georgian Shores United, Owen Sound where she plans to present find-

ings from her research (partial requirement toward MA in Community Music, Wilfrid Laurier University) along with a multi-media musical presentation featuring community choir, professional musicians in the community, and instrumental music as well as her own composition. Fiona's research objective is to determine what (professional) composers perceive themselves contributing to the community of (amateur) musicians and toward this end, she interviewed 32 composers/directors, i.e., leading community musicians from all over the world, asking them to reflect on their role as composers in their communities. Responses were relatively unrestricted self-reporting. Several recurring themes emerged. One of note is that that professional composers perceive their works as transforming their community rather than existing in isolation.

The floor was open for comments and feedback. John was at the rehearsal of Fiona's concert earlier that day and heard the novelty instrument "ocean drum" (drum that makes soothing ocean wave sounds). Fr Ed offered that more experienced composers may feel isolated from the amateurs, who are unable to make refined music.

Marilyn thanked Fiona for the presentation and applause followed. Marilyn added, as an example of professionals transforming community musicians, that with encouragement by talented Sunday school teachers at Knox United, Durham, Sunday school children, who are not yet trained, are now enthusiastic and comfortable about song writing.

At 7:04 p.m., we returned to business items on the agenda.

2. Election Results - Member-at-Large and Chaplain

Following online nomination poll held between May 12th and 31st 2019, at AGM on June 9th, all officer's positions were filled except for Membership Coordinator, Member-at-large and Chaplain. Dwayne agreed on June 14th to continue filling the Membership Coordinator's position.

As for Member-at-large, David suggested Azrael. If Azrael, given time to consider, does not stand, Fiona agreed to stand². Marjorie moved that Azrael and Fiona be considered for Member-at-large. Gertrude seconded.

As for Chaplain, Marilyn asked if Ian would stand. Ian declined. Marilyn asked if the council may appoint Fr Ed. Fr Ed accepted the appointment.

3. Proposed Hymn Festival

Planned date of October 27th 2019 for hymn festival at Westside Central United in Owen Sound had turned out to be unsuitable. Georgian Shores United, Owen Sound, is having, a week earlier, an event to commemorate installation of its organ 100 years ago, and Knox United in Durham is having a hymn festival on the same day as our planned hymn festival. Council recommended that the hymn festival take place in 2020. Fr Ed so moved. David seconded. Planning committee is Fiona, Fr Ed, Marilyn, and Julian. They said that they would bring a template for the hymn festival to the next meeting in November.

4. *Harmonies in the Midst of Madness and Miracle: A Devotion in Scripture, Organ Music, Song and Prayer* at 7:30 p.m. Friday April 10th at Christ Church, Lion's Head

Satomi confirmed the council of LAAMB (Lutheran and Anglican Ministry of the Bruce) to which Christ Church, Lion's Head, belongs, agreed to host this event.

At this point in the meeting, rather than the treasurer reporting financial status as part of officers' report after ongoing and new business, Satomi provided a financial report, so that members could be aware of our financial capabilities while discussing new business.

Satomi thanked Hilery who kept fine ledgers and created financial reports over the past nine years. The Financial report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was accepted. In our newly opened (as of July 4th 2019, with RBC, after closing our account with BMO) bank account, there is a total of \$2310.06 including \$600 in Scholarship (National), \$1363.60 in Scholarship (Centre), and \$346.46 in General Funds.

² Azrael's parents gave consent that Azrael fill the office of Member-at-large on October 2nd.

The following ongoing and new business were discussed.

1. Education Component at Meetings

Marilyn asked whether we should continue to have an educational component to centre meetings (initiated during Fr Ed's presidency of 2017-2019). Fiona moved that these continue. Fr Ed seconded. Marilyn presented some ideas from the September 5th council meeting, including having a first-hand look at Orgelkit, inviting Anna to report on the Summer Organ Academy at the Halifax Organ Festival 2019, and asking Dwayne to make a presentation on Baroque articulation, which was planned for this past January but cancelled because of weather.

2. GROW (Grey Bruce RCCO Organ Week) type Program Committee

We offered organ workshops during the summers of 2015 and 2017³ but suspended these in 2018 or 2019 because National RCCO's Organ Festival (Calgary 2018 and Halifax 2019) were offering a summer academy, similar in format to GROW. Marilyn pointed out that substitute organists for Sunday services are in demand, and Fr Ed pointed out that we should continue to offer a summer workshop so that organists in our region can continue to find additional training locally. Marilyn proposed asking the GROW committee (Marilyn, Fr Ed, David, and Satomi) to come up with a plan for GROW 2020, which would involve support from all Centre members. David moved. Azrael seconded.

3. Scholarships

Marilyn stated that the Centre may receive two national scholarships per year for beginner organists. We have been highly successful in the past; for the size of the membership, we have a high ratio of receiving funds from National RCCO. Marilyn encouraged members to search for more beginners.

4. Request from Fiona

Marilyn said Fiona had requested funds (amount unspecified) from the Centre to help defray costs associated with her concert on Saturday September 21st at

³ Summer 2015 Marilyn and scholarship committee auditioned 15 applicants for two scholarships and subsequently offered an eight-session summer workshop on Saturdays in July and August to 10 (five minors and five adults) who had auditioned. GROW, conceived in summer 2017, provided five-day-long seminars in July to four participants (three minors and one adult). Consequently, national scholarship was awarded to two and centre scholarship to one.

Georgian Shores United, Owen Sound. Fr Ed moved that the Centre contribute this support. David seconded. All in favour. Ian pointed out that since Fiona's concert is a requirement for her MA in Community Music at Wilfrid Laurier University, the support should be considered as a scholarship. Treasurer Satomi stated there is \$1363.60 in Centre Scholarship funds, which is not yet earmarked (we don't have budget). To determine the appropriate amount of support in this case, John referred to our on-going sponsorship for two music festivals in the past: \$100 for the Midwestern Ontario Rotary Music Festival and \$175 for the Grey County Kiwanis Festival of Music in 2018-2019. (Figures according to the ledgers Hilery had kept.) Marilyn moved \$150. David seconded. All in favour. Carried. Fiona thanked. Satomi said she will give Fiona a cheque for this amount as soon as the cheque book for the new account with RBC arrives⁴.

5. Orgelkit

Fr Ed moved that we bring Orgelkit this coming year to have first run with it at the Centre. John seconded. An Orgelkit is stored at London Centre. For publicity, John suggested that we get a table in a shopping mall during school break for children to play with the kit. Marilyn asked three members to volunteer to form the Orgelkit committee. John, Marjorie, and Laura volunteered.

6. Ascension Day Service, May 21st 2020 at St. Mark's, Chesley

At the AGM in June this year, we passed a motion that we offer Ascension Day (May 21st, 2020) Service at St. Mark's, Chesley. Fr Ed will present an outline of the service at November Centre meeting.

7. Owen Sound BALL (Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning)⁵

Julian reported that the Centre is seeking a slot in the 2021-2022 lecture series. BALL, with 365 subscribers, offers a highly successful lecture series each year to adults. Tickets normally are sold out quickly. Julian will update us.

8. Other

⁴ The cheque book arrived the following day (Monday September 16th) at Treasurer Satomi's residence. The cheque was given to Fiona on September 18th, 2019.

⁵ The Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning (BALL), non-profit association, offers BALL Lecture Series and Special Lectures that provide "cultural and creative experiences in historical, scientific and contemporary subjects which are relevant and meaningful to adults". Lecture Series, in fall, winter, and spring, are often six weeks in length. (from www.bluewaterlearns.com)

Marjorie announced that our newest member Andy, who joined RCCO in September 2019, invited *Harmonies* to Knox Presbyterian, Kincardine, where Andy is currently Music Team Leader, on Good Friday April 2nd, 2021. Fr Ed moved to accept the invitation. Richard seconded. Discussion followed. David reminded us that *Harmonies* had just been held in April 2019 at Kincardine United, Kincardine. Julian and Azrael thought that before discussing further, Andy should be present. Marilyn and Fiona suggested that we need to see in which communities we have been offering *Harmonies* over the past ten years in order to decide on where to go next. Fiona moved to defer the decision to have *Harmonies* at Knox Presbyterian, Kincardine, 2021. David seconded. Carried.

At 7:55 p.m., officers made reports.

- President

President Marilyn had given her report at the beginning of the meeting.

- Vice-President/ Webmaster

Webmaster Julian has updated centre webpage with contributions from Fr Ed. Fiona will contribute her composition works.

Julian showed a framed citation for the organ at Trinity United, Annan, which is a 123 year-old, single manual tracker organ built by Lye Organ Company, Toronto, and recognized by the Historic Organ Committee of RCCO (second in Grey Bruce) for its historic merits and worthiness of preservation. Fr Ed added the first historic organ designation by RCCO in Grey Bruce was the 1906 Breckels & Matthews, Toronto, at St. Paul's Presbyterian, Wiarton in 2010⁶.

- Secretary/ Treasurer

Treasurer Satomi learned from Evis, Office Administrator of RCCO, how donations can be made to the Centre so that tax receipts are issued. For example, at events such as *Harmonies*, we ask donors to write cheques payable to "RCCO

⁶ On May 1st, 2010, at St. Paul's Presbyterian, Wiarton, RCCO Grey Bruce Centre provided concert to celebrate the occasion of its receiving historic organ designation.

Grey-Bruce". Cheques are put together and sent to National RCCO with a separate sheet listing donor names and addresses. National RCCO will issue the official tax receipt and send one to each donor⁷.

- Membership Coordinator

Membership Coordinator Dwayne was absent.

- Immediate Past President/ Region Director/ Chaplain

Region Director (i.e., on the Board of Directors of RCCO) Fr Ed attended an information session on RCCO's re-application for a Canada Council grant to fund "Immersive Auralities" (web platform for contemporary organ music and culture, accessible to all). Since time was short, Fr Ed agreed to provide more information at the next Centre meeting.

Marilyn asked for volunteers to clean the kitchen.

8:12 p.m., Marjorie moved adjournment. Gertrude seconded. Carried.

Upcoming event:

Saturday October 19, 2019 2:30 p.m. at Georgian Shores United Church, Owen Sound. Organ Centennial Concert: Celebrating the 100th year of the Georgian Shores Organ. Ian Sadler, Organist. Special Guests: Shoreline Chorus directed by Ann-Marie MacDairmid. Admission is Pay What You Will.

Next meeting: November 17th, 2019

First St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Hanover

Please let Marilyn know of agenda items you wish added by the Wednesday before the Sunday of the next meeting

Submitted by

Satomi

⁷ Via email communication on October 7th with Evis, Satomi furthermore learned that RCCO creates donation receipts **for any amount**, while the CRA provides a personal tax credit for donations **equal and over \$20.00**.