

WIARTON St PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





St Paul Presbyterian Church pipe organ

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The organ has 2 manuals . 16 stops and couplers, 515 pipes and features the original tubular pneumatic action and cone tuning.

It was originally operated with manual bellows that still exists in working order. An electric blower , behind the choir loft, was installed mid last century and replaced in 1992. Electronic chimes were added to the organ in 1965 in memory of Allen Ashley who had been clerk of session for twenty years.

The organ was given a complete cleaning and overhaul in 1992. Because of the historic nature of the organ , all repairs were done using materials and methods consistent with those of the original builders.

The pipes on the façade feature their original hand painted decoration. This organ is one of very few such organs in their original condition.

The church is currently in the process of seeking official historic organ designation





PIPE ORGAN AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WIARTON

BUILDER: Breckels & Matthews, Toronto

DATE OF INSTALLATION: 1906

OPUS NUMBER: Unknown

LOCATION: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 553 Gould St., Wiarton, Ontario

ACTION: Tubular-pneumatic

NUMBER OF MANUALS: Two

SPECIFICATION:	<i>GREAT</i>		<i>SWELL</i>	
	Principal 4'	61 pipes	Harmonic Flute 4'	61 pipes
	Dulciana 8'	61 pipes	Oboe 8'	61 pipes
	Melodia 8'	61 pipes	Viol di Gamba 8'	61 pipes
	Open Diapason 8'	61 pipes	Stopped Diapason 8'	61 pipes
	Great Super Octave		Swell Super Octave	
	<i>PEDALS</i>			
	Bourdon Pedal 16'	27 pipes		
	<i>COUPLERS</i>			
	Swell to Pedal			
	Great to Pedal			
	Swell to Great			
	Swell to Great Sub			
	Swell to Great Super			

CASEWORK: Oak, with hand-painted decoration on the façade pipes.

CONDITION & CHANGES:

1. The organ and console are both in their original locations.
2. The organ has its original façade, including hand-painted decorations on the pipes.
3. An electric blower was added mid last century and replaced in 1992. The original hand pumping mechanism and roller valve are still installed, unaltered and functioning.
4. The organ has its original tubular pneumatic action.
5. The original cone tuning is intact.
6. A chime keyboard was added in 1965.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Presbyterian congregation was first organized in Warton in 1879; the earliest written records date back to 1884. The first church was a frame building at 590 Gould Street. Mr. Robert Greenlees donated the lot; timber and labour were given freely, and the stone for the foundation came from Mr. Alex Greig of the Greig Settlement.

In 1891, the people of the Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches decided to join together, use one building and one minister, and worship and work together as Presbyterians. Both groups vacated their buildings and chose the present site on the northeast corner of George and Gould Streets for a new church. They accepted plans submitted by a Mr. Gray, a builder from Harriston, in August 1891. The price was \$6,265.

The cornerstone of this fine red brick building was laid with great ceremony on October 1, 1891, and the church was completed and dedicated on the first Sunday in March 1892. The minister at the time was Rev. George A. Yeomans. (The pulpit chair was later donated in his memory by his son David.) At that time the congregation, numbering 165 souls, had cash in hand in the amount of \$1,368. A loan of \$5,000 was obtained to cover the remainder of the cost of the building. In 1902, the old frame church was sold for \$30 and a brick manse was built on the site at 590 Gould Street. That manse was subsequently sold.

The beautiful, large stained glass windows at the north and south ends of the sanctuary and the one behind the organ pipes (as well as the smaller windows) were all installed as part of the original building. These large windows are the work of Robert McCausland Ltd., of Toronto, the first stained glass window makers in North America. The large south window was restored in 1997 and the rosette windows above the main entrance and above the organ pipes in 2006. The previously hidden panels from behind the organ pipes are being restored at this time; when restored, these panels will be reinstalled in the main sanctuary.

Our century-old pipe organ was built and installed by Breckels & Matthews, of Toronto, in March 1906, with the assistance of a \$750 Andrew Carnegie grant. A group of churchwomen, called Pastor's Aid, raised the remaining \$735 needed to pay for it. The organ has 2 manuals, 16 stops and couplers, 515 pipes, and features the original tubular pneumatic action and cone tuning. It was originally operated with a manual bellows that still exists, in working condition, behind the choir loft; an electric blower was installed mid last century and replaced in 1992. Electronic chimes were added to the organ in 1965, in memory of Allan Ashley, who had been clerk of session for twenty years. The organ was given a complete cleaning and overhaul in 1992; because of the historic nature of the organ, all repairs were done using materials and methods consistent with those of the original builders. The pipes on the façade feature their original hand-painted decoration. This organ is one of very few such organs still existing in their original condition; we are currently in the process of seeking official historic organ designation.

The church was wired for electricity in the 1920s. In 1922, the Ladies' Aid (formerly Pastor's Aid) led a campaign to raise \$1,033 to pay off the balance of the church mortgage. The mortgage was burned at the Annual Meeting in January 1923.

In 1925 the vote on church union (involving Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists) took place. The vote at St. Paul's was 73 in favour and 92 against. The minister and some members left to join the United Church. All the elders remained, and all of the church organizations carried on as before.

A carillon was installed in 1965; this was replaced in 2002 with a new system in memory of Jim Good.

The new front entrance was added in 1988. At \$20,906, it cost more than three times what the original church cost.

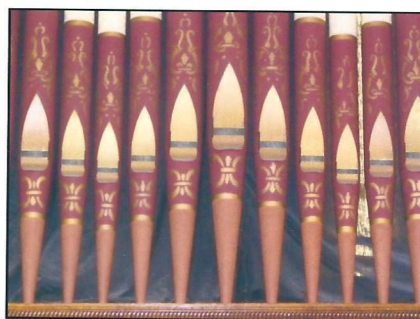
In addition to the on-going activities of St. Paul's Church, a number of community groups use our facilities, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Girl Guides, a seniors' exercise group, an after school homework group, a YMCA Youth Employment Program and the annual Breakfast with Santa.

1906 BRECKELS & MATTHEWS ORGAN

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WIARTON



Console & Facade



Facade Detail



Console



Pedals



Bench



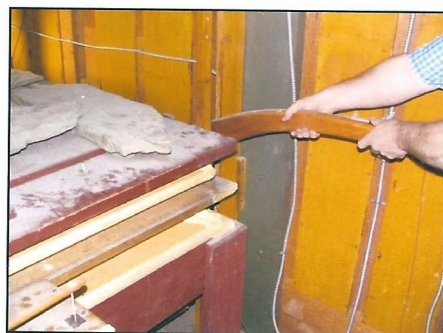
Great pipes (above)
Swell pipes (right)



Pedal pipes



Tubing & Valves



Bellows hand operation



Stone weights on bellows

7. The organ was given a major cleaning and overhaul in 1992, by Blair Batty, Organbuilder, from Simcoe, Ontario. Because of the historic nature of the organ, all the repairs were done using materials and methods consistent with those of the original builders.
8. The organ is currently in regular use. It has never been altered in any way either mechanically or tonally beyond the installation of the electric blower. Our organ tuner describes it as being in excellent condition.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. The organ was purchased in 1906 with the assistance of a \$750 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation; a group of churchwomen (called Pastor's Aid) raised the remaining \$735 to pay for the organ.
2. The builder, Breckels & Matthews, was in business in Toronto from the 1890s to 1911 when it became the Matthews Church Organ Company; this company went out of business in the Great Depression of the 1930s. Other Breckels & Matthews organs can be found in the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (1906), Toronto; St John's York Mills Anglican Church (1928 – used), Toronto; Christ Church Anglican (1908), Markdale; and Academie Ste. Cecile International School Chapel, Windsor. Most have undergone extensive alterations. We understand that ours is one of the few remaining in its original condition.

The renowned organist Dr. Healy Willam, who played the Breckels & Matthews organ at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto from 1921 – 1968, often remarked that "this firm built the finest pipe organs on the continent."

3. The organ has been tuned and serviced by Blair Batty, Organbuilder, from Simcoe, Ontario, since 1992.