

President's Message



We have come to the end of another handbell season and although things are still difficult, they are looking up! Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of OGEHR through participating in events like our virtual Annual Meeting concert or the Christmas concert this year. Those have been wonderful ways for us to connect across the province! A big thank you to the Programs Committee for organizing those activities.

There are, however, numerous other committees that have worked behind the scenes: Communications, Education, Area Reps, Development, Nominating, Governance and of course, our Board. A huge thank you to all of them for their work in these continued difficult times! And also to you for continuing to participate in OGEHR.

It is my hope that this September we will return to a reasonably normal year. Planning is happening for our [Festival in Kingston](#) and the catch phrase, **"It's About Time"** is certainly appropriate! The festival is something that we can all look forward to.

Please have a restful and healthy summer and come back full of energy to start a new season of playing! That is my plan!



Help us to help each other.

Rob Cairns - President OGEHR



*Ontario Guild of
English Handbell
Ringers*

Clapper Chatter

June 2022

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS

Clapper Chatter welcomes your submissions. All submissions must be received by the following deadlines: September 30th (October issue), January 31st (February issue), May 31st (June issue).

FORMAT

Text in Microsoft Word and high resolution colour photos in .jpg format are preferred.

REPRINT PERMISSION

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ADVERTISING

Ad sizes and rates are available on request. Advertising must be submitted by the submission deadlines listed above. All final ad artwork must be saved in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. When preparing ads, use high resolution images and fonts, and set the Acrobat Preferences to embed the fonts and images at their original high resolution quality.

CLAPPER CHATTER EDITOR

Please send all submissions to: Andrea Gray — Clapper Chatter Editor at clapperchatter@ogehr.ca 613-286-7495

Contents

President’s Message.....	1
OGEHR Festival “It’s About Time”.....	3
OGEHR Trillium Grant.....	4,5
Sylvia Carscadden Tribute.....	6,7
Books that Ring Bells.....	8
OGEHR Board of Directors.....	9
OGEHR Board Lists.....	10

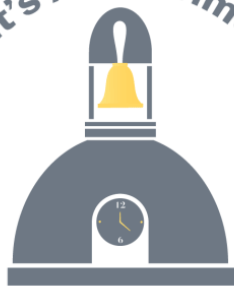
MORE ON SUBMISSIONS

A newsletter thrives or dies based on its content, so we need your input! Do you have a concert coming up, a review of a performance just accomplished, a significant event in the life of your bell choir, or a favourite piece of music that you would like to recommend to others? Send it in! Anything is fair game (subject to editorial review). Accompanying photographs are encouraged, as they really liven things up.

We want your feedback!
Let us know what you like, or don’t like, or would like to see, by emailing Andrea at clapperchatter@ogehr.ca

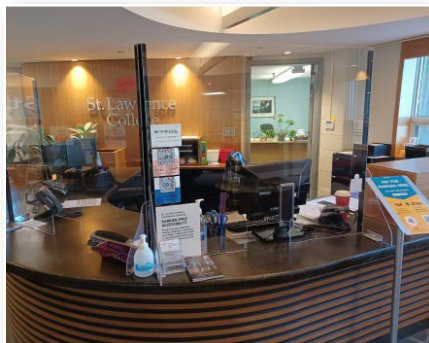
Submission deadline for the next issue: September 30th, for publication on October 15th.

It's About Time



June 1-3, 2023
Kingston, ON

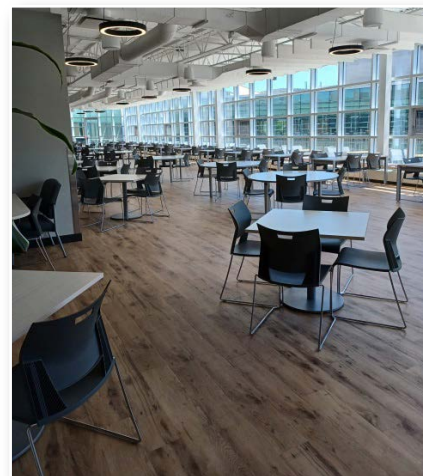
The OGEHR Festival logo “It’s About Time” couldn’t be more appropriate! It’s about time we started gathering and ringing at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, June 1-3, 2023. Your Festival Committee had a tour of the great facilities at the College in early June. We saw the new residence, the new gym ringing floor, cafeteria and possible workshop rooms. What a nice location with short walking distances to all activities. And it is close to Lake Ontario for those who like to walk by the water.



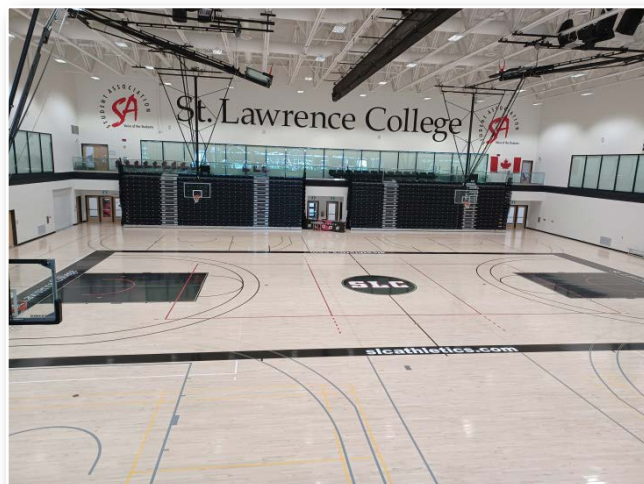
The Registration area is huge, with couches and vending machines and lots of space for a speedy check-in process.



The residence can be seen here from the ringing building with the parking lot we’ll use in between (with many accessible parking spots!).



The cafeteria is near the ringing floor with lots of seating capacity.



St Lawrence College has built a new gym with plenty of seating for our Saturday concert guests and space for our giant podium. Can't you just see yourself in the third row, left hand side?



“It’s About Time” to order your choir’s music for the festival with our guest conductors, Kathleen Wissinger (Massed, Copper B and Bronze Choirs) and Lisa Kyriakides (Copper A and Oh Canada): <https://ogehr.ca/Music-List>

Other things to think about over the next year: Can our choir do a mini-ring? Can I run a workshop? Can our choir put together something for the Silent Auction? Can I volunteer at the Festival? The Festival Committee is working hard to make this Festival one to remember and we can’t wait to welcome you to The Limestone City!

OGEHR Trillium Grant



Two 3-Octave Sets

We announced through the email tree the successful application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation of a Resilient Communities Grant. Clapper Chatter, though, allows a better opportunity to fill you in on the details.

You may or may not know that the Development Committee was re-introduced this year. One of the first areas that they looked into were grants that might be available to OGEHR. The [Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund](#) seemed like a good match. The description is “... funding to help your non-profit organization rebuild from the impacts of COVID-19 ...” That sounded just like us!

As with many organizations during the pandemic, our membership numbers have decreased. We have been looking for ways to reengage our membership—the [Virtual Christmas Concert](#), our continued monthly bell socials with Marg, the [Annual Meeting Concert](#)—so application was put together to purchase a number of handchime sets and loan them to non OGEHR groups as an incentive to join OGEHR. After the completion of this project all of these sets will be available to members through our [instrument loan program](#).



One 5-Octave Set

The groups will be participating in a one day mini-festival on March 4th, 2023. To accommodate getting groups together from across the province the mini-festival will be a hybrid live/virtual event. The members of each group will be in the same location, but the groups will all be connected virtually with each other to perform together. At the mini-festival groups will rehearse

and perform a couple of massed pieces. In addition each group will record in advance a performance of their choosing on the loaned instrument. All of these recordings will be put together and presented later in a Trillium Handchime Loan Project concert.



Three 4-Octave Sets

Through the grant we were also able to purchase and gift to the participating groups the copies of the massed pieces. And a very exciting aspect of the program is that each group will have an OGEHR clinician available to help prepare them for the mini-festival!

Con't...

We are pleased to be able to announce that Stuart Sladden will be the guest conductor for the mini-festival! You may remember Stuart from our last festival. Just as a reminder, here is a little more info about Stuart:

Stuart Sladden has completed a Doctor of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Alberta. He currently sings with the Winnipeg Singers, conducts the Bison Men's Chorus, the Rochester Ringers, and the U of M Concert Choir, teaches at the Faculty of Music at University of Manitoba and at the International Music Camp, and is the Vice President of the Manitoba Choral Association.

I always say to my students "You never know until you ask." We looked into and asked for a grant to help revitalize OGEHR. It was surprising and exciting to have the grant come through! It has provided a new opportunity for us to engage new members and will provide a benefit to all members in the future.

We will continue to look for new opportunities to provide to the members of OGEHR!

Rob Cairns - President OGEHR





Sylvia Carscadden

Sylvia Carscadden

OGEHR Charter Member 1985
OGEHR Honorary Member 2015
By Mary Loree

Sylvia Carscadden's handbell story is one of enthusiasm, initiative, determination and dedication. These qualities, combined with a passion for music and generosity of time and talent, shaped Sylvia's remarkable contributions to handbell education and ringing in Ontario, particularly in the Sudbury area.

Sylvia grew up in Oshawa, Ontario where her music education began with pre-school piano lessons from her mother. Sylvia became a competent pianist. A few of her maxims reflect her philosophy of making music: 'Play-practice-repeat'; 'Learn to be your best'; 'Learn from each other'; 'There is nothing better than making music with friends'; 'Enjoy the applause'; and, to quote Don Allured, "The right note at the right time is just the beginning!". Sylvia encouraged her musicians that rehearsing was not enough and to seek opportunities to perform. After a performance, Sylvia could be heard to say "Oh, that was so good! I am so proud of you!"

Sylvia's first handbell opportunity came when her mother, Mary Black, gifted Sylvia's family with a three octave set of bells that had belonged to Mary's friend, Mrs. Richardson, in Peterborough. Mary had previously heard Mrs. Richardson's daughter ring, loved the sound, and encouraged, even 'pestered', Sylvia to ring. But, with mother and bells in Peterborough and Sylvia now in Sudbury with four children, the bells sat, little used for some time. However, Mrs. Richardson would come over when Sylvia's family visited Peterborough to demonstrate ringing from a hymn book. On her own, Sylvia worked through the learning packages that accompanied the bells.

And then... the Wesley Bell Ringers from Christ United Methodist Church, Salt Lake City, gave a concert in Sudbury. Sylvia, whose interest in bells had already been piqued, requested to billet the director. Sylvia absorbed all she could from him while daughter Susan watched, listened, and became intrigued with 4-in-hand. The Carscadden family was 'into' bells.

To expand her experience, Sylvia attended Bay View Week of Handbells, in Petoskey, Michigan, where director Donald Allured reinforced her love of the instrument and her high standards. Sylvia describes this experience as life-changing. She loved the place, the atmosphere, the bells – everything, and soaked it all up "like a sponge." True to her desire to learn and experience all things handbell, Sylvia challenged herself to play bass bells in 'the pit' at Bell View. For several years she and her daughter Susan played on the same table—C3 – G3!!

The Carscadden children and their friends formed Sylvia's first handbell choir. As these children grew up, others would join. In 1975, Sylvia formed the community choir, 'Kampana', meaning bells in Filipino. This choir practiced at the Carscadden home in Lively, a small town just west of Sudbury. During the cold, snowy winters of Northern Ontario, Sylvia would drive out to see if road conditions were clear enough for the ringers to make it down to the house. If not, practice was cancelled.

The Kampana choir and quartet were uniquely neither church nor school sponsored or associated. They were a community choir that defined 'community choir'. Their concert at the beginning of December each year marked the start of Christmas celebrations for many Lively residents. Admission was a gift to the food bank. Through their performances at schools, churches, fundraisers, dinners and meetings, Kampana spread their love of bells and were able to support many not-for-profit organizations. It was common practice for the choir to ask a young musician to perform at their concerts and young people were encouraged to try the bells after a concert. The choir gave workshops on chimes for elementary teachers and were instrumental in the creation of chime choirs in area schools and churches.

Con't...

In 1985, Kampana attended the first OGEHR festival, organized by Barb Plante and Laudamus Ringers, in London, Ontario. The choir played 'Overture to Carmen' at the festival and rented a sports team bus from Laurentian University for the five hour drive there and back. This began a pattern of attending the biennial OGEHR festivals. Purchasing new, more complex and varied music from the music displays, playing with others, attending workshops, plus meeting and being directed by handbell composers themselves made the festivals an invaluable learning tool for Sylvia and the choir. Fundraising to attend festivals included playing at weddings, dinners and churches. Ringers who were teachers took personal days in order to attend the entire festival. This was a closely knit, dedicated group—renowned for their late-night parties!

Sylvia was the Festival Coordinator for the Hamilton OGEHR Festival in 2011 at McMaster University, Hamilton. After attending many Festival Committee meetings in the south, Sylvia invited the committee to make the 5 hour drive north to Sudbury for their spring meeting. How would anyone guess that significant snow would fall the night before the meeting - in May? All members made the meeting - with stories to tell!

Sylvia and Kampana also broadened their experience by attending International Festivals. Sylvia sat on the planning committee of their first, the Toronto International Festival in 2004. In 2008, Sylvia and daughters Barbara and Susan played at the Orlando international Festival, where Susan was also the Canadian conductor. Sylvia commissioned Carl Wiltse to write a solo piece for Susan in honour of the occasion. The final International Festival that Kampana attended was in Vancouver in 2016. There, the Carscadden women, Sylvia and her three daughters, Susan, Barb and Janine, played with Nikki Atwell's choir, Alleluia Ringers.



Sylvia Carscadden with daughters (L to R) Susan, Barbara and Janine at the Vancouver International Festival in 2016

After Vancouver, with members moving away and practice space not ideal, Kampana dispersed. Their final performance in Sudbury was playing the bells in Benjamin Britten's community opera, *Noah's Flood*. An era had come to an end.

The bells and equipment were sent to daughter Janine in Armstrong, BC. Janine, who is currently president of the BC Guild, has fittingly continued the choir name Kampana. Susan currently directs the Bellessima quartet and Bells Ablaze choir in Ingersoll, Ontario, and Barbara plays in a small church in Texas. Although the Carscadden grandchildren did not continue the handbell playing tradition, they assisted at many Kampana concerts and were always proud when Grandma visited their schools with her bells for a performance or 'show and tell'.

The inaugural Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award was awarded to Sylvia in 2014 for her impact on the community of Sudbury. This award recognized Sylvia's passion for music education for all ages, her promotion of lifelong music education and her inspiration to others. Sylvia has also been honoured with the designation Honorary Fellow by Huntington University in Sudbury, and OGEHR honoured Sylvia as an Honorary Member in 2015 for her outstanding personal participation and exceptional leadership in handbell ringing in Ontario.

Sylvia is a remarkable woman with a love of music and a gift for sharing her passion with others. The music community of Sudbury and the handbell community in Ontario are fortunate to have shared and benefitted from decades of Sylvia's commitment to music and music education. We are all richer for it. Thank you Sylvia.

Sources for this article are available upon request at secretary@ogehr.ca.

“Books that Ring Bells”



I recently finished reading a book that contains several passages about bell ringing. While these bells were being rung in bell towers, any bell ringer can relate to the language of bells and the music itself. I challenge ringers to share books in the future that “ring a bell.”

Margaret Merkley

A Single Thread by Tracy Chevalier

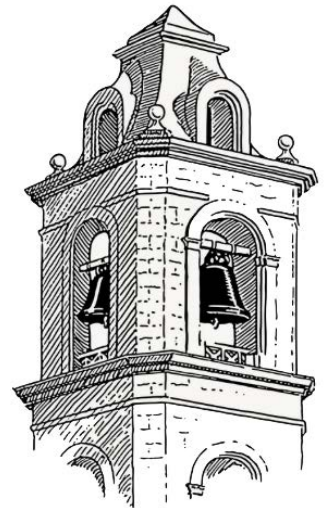
Reviewed by Margaret Merkley

After both her brother and fiancé are killed during WW1, 38-year-old Violet Speedwell, pieces together a life for herself by moving to the town of Winchester, home to one of England's grandest cathedrals. There, Violet develops friendships with two groups: “broderers” and bell ringers.

Broderers are women who embroider kneelers for the Cathedral. In-depth knowledge about embroidery is woven into the friendships Violet develops as she moves from novice to expert.

A secondary but well developed theme is that of bell ringing in cathedral towers. The reader learns how ringers weave together intervals and sequences to create change ringing—where the striking succession of the bells is changed, to give variety and musicality to the sound.

This novel, while touching on the joys and sorrows of both family and friendship, captures the historical essence of the period between WW1 and WW2.





Ontario Guild of
English Handbell
Ringers

OGEHR Board of Directors as of June 25, 2022

(bracketed year after position or name indicates end of term)

President Directors

Rob Cairns ('23) president@ogehr.ca *President ('23); Chair: Board ('23); Development ('25)*

Lisa Kyriakides ('23) vice-president@ogehr.ca *Vice-President ('23); Chair Programs (23); Nominations (23)*

Margaret Merkle ('23) past-president@ogehr.ca *Past President ('23)*

Officer Directors

Mary Loree ('24) secretary@ogehr.ca *Corresponding and Recording Secretary ('24)*

Helen Coxon ('25) membership@ogehr.ca *Membership Secretary ('25)*

Sona Khachikyan ('23) treasurer@ogehr.ca *Treasurer ('23)*

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Nancy Bell ('24) treasurer@ogehr.ca
Chair: Governance ('24)

Joan Bolam ('23) areareps@ogehr.ca
Chair: Area Representatives ('23)

Janis Cowie ('23) festivalchair@ogehr.ca
Chair: 2023 Festival ('24)

Kim Leitch ('22) communications@ogehr.ca
Chair: Communications ('22)

Dominique Moreau ('24) director24@ogehr.ca
Chair: Education ('24)

OGEHR Board Appointed Positions

Area Representatives – please contact Joan Bolam (areareps@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Janet McDonald *East Representative ('23)*

Vacant *South Representative ('22)*

heather nicholson *Central East Representative ('25)*

Vacant *West Representative (24)*

Jennifer Schafer *Central Representative ('24)*

Shirley Reinders *North East Representative ('23)*

Mark Matterson *Central West Representative ('23)*

Inactive *North West Representative ('24)*

Communications – please contact Kim Leitch (communications@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Man-Yee Sun *Email Coordinator ('23)*

Andrea Gray *Newsletter Editor ('24)*

Randy Mills *Social Media Coordinator ('24)*

Kim Leitch *Webmaster ('23)*

Festival Coordinator – please contact Janis Cowie (festivalchair@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Gail Bowes *2021/22 Festival Coordinator ('24)*

Programs – please contact Lisa Kyriakides (programs@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Barbara Peaker *Instrument Loan Program Coordinator ('24)* (instrumentloan@ogehr.ca)

Debi Sproule *Music Lending Coordinator ('24)* (musiclending@ogehr.ca)

Committees

Standing Committees

Area Representatives

Joan Bolam (Chair)
East AR
Central East AR
Central AR Vacant
Central West AR
South AR Vacant
West AR Vacant
North East AR
North West AR Inactive
President

Communications

Kim Leitch (Chair)
Newsletter Editor
Email Coordinator
Social Media Coordinator
Webmaster
Members-at-large:
1. Janis Cowie
2. Norma Draper
3. Maddy Lang
President

Ad Hoc Committee

2023 Festival

Janis Cowie Chair, (Registrar)
Gail Bowes 2021/22 Festival Coordinator,
(Auction & Communications)
Amy Baker (Facilities)
Ruth Pettis (Mini Ring)
Judy King & Jan Haskins (Music)
Kathy Baer (Publicity)
Janet McDonald (Publicity)
Bonnie Howse (Publicity)
Lynne Current (Social)
Marg Merkley (Workshops)
Kim Leitch (Secretary and Website)
President

Working Group

OTF Resilient Communities Fund Grant (RF118638)

2022-04-09
Rob Cairns, Chair
Sona Khachikyan
Lisa Kyriakides
Maddy Lang
Mary Loree
Marg Merkley
Barbara Peaker

Development

Vacant (Chair)
Members-at-large:
1. Lisa Kyriakides
2. Maddy Lang
3. Joan Bolam
President

Education

Dominique Moreau (Chair)
Members-at-large:
1. Peggy David
2. Joyce Hagarty
3. Mackenzie Malarczyk
3. Debbie McMackin
5. Randy Mills
President

Governance

Nancy Bell (Chair)
Members-at-large:
1. Linda Wilson
2. Lloyd Winfield
3. Vacant
President

Honorary Membership

Vice President (Chair)
Past President
President

Nominating

Lisa Kyriakides (Chair)
Vacant (Vice-Chair)
Central West
(Mark Matterson)
North East
(Janet McDonald)
President

Programs

Lisa Kyriakides (Chair)
Instrument Loan Program
Coordinator
Music Lending Library
Coordinator
Members-at-large:
1. Matthew Boutda
2. Sue Linley
3. Lloyd Winfield
4. Vacant
President

Working Group

Membership Working Group

Helen Coxon (Chair)
Joan Bolam
Kim Leitch
Norma Draper
Shirley Reinders

Working Group

OGEHR Store Ad Hoc Committee

2022-04-09
Rob Cairns, Chair
Joan Bolam, Festival Liaison
Janis Cowie
Kim Leitch