



*Ontario Guild of
English Handbell
Ringers*

CLAPPER CHATTER

February 2019

Festival 2019



June 6-8, 2019

Fanshawe College, London, ON

Please join us in London, June 6-8 for our biennial Festival. Now that we are actually in 2019 the anticipation is building, as the Festival is only a few months away. The Festival Committee is hard at work planning fun workshops, social activities and a great event for all. We hope you have made your plans to attend and, if you haven't already done so, will go online soon to complete your registration. Early bird registration continues until February 28. Registration closes April 30, 2019.

Make sure you --

- ☒ Register yourself in the appropriate ringing category and program of your choice
- ☒ Choose 3 workshops you would like to attend
- ☒ Buy a boxed dinner for the Annual Meeting on Thursday evening, June 6
- ☒ Book accommodation through the Fanshawe website. Instructions here:
<https://ogehr.ca/festival2019/facilities-accommodation/>
- ☒ Buy some early concert tickets
- ☒ Choir Directors - register your choir, equipment and if you have space for lone ringers
- ☒ Register your group to play in a Mini Ring
- ☒ Donate something for the Silent Auction

Coming Soon

- ☒ Festival shirts you can purchase

Want to read more? Everything is on the OGEHR website. <https://ogehr.ca>

Ready to register? Click here <https://ogehr.ca/festival2019/registration/>

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS

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

FORMAT

Text in Microsoft Word and high resolution colour photos in .jpg format are preferred. If your submission contains complex formatting and/or images that need to be in a certain place, please submit the document as you would like it to look, but also a text-only version.

REPRINT PERMISSION

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DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in Clapper Chatter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers, nor does the appearance of products or services in advertisements constitute an endorsement by OGEHR.

ADVERTISING

Advertising rates:

Business card—\$50

Half page—\$75

Full page—\$100

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 fonts and images at original high resolution.

CLAPPER CHATTER EDITOR

Please send all submissions to:

Helen Coxon —Clapper Chatter Editor

hcoxon@sympatico.ca; 416-420-9660

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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.

Clapper Chatter will be published in two formats: in full colour on the website, with a link sent out via the email tree, and hard-copy in black and white mailed out to those who are not on the email list. If you are one of the latter, why not sign up for the email tree and get the full Clapper Chatter experience?

We want your feedback. Let us know what you like, or don't like, or would like to see, by emailing Helen at hcoxon@sympatico.ca

Submission deadline for the next issue: May 31, for publication June 15

A Clapper Chatter subscription is included with Individual and Honorary OGEHR memberships. In addition, one subscription is included in the flat-fee component of the Affiliate membership fee, and is mailed to the Organization contact person for each Organization from which there are OGEHR Affiliate Members, to be shared amongst those Affiliate Members. Affiliate Members may receive their own personal copy of Clapper Chatter by purchasing a one-year subscription for \$15, or a half-year subscription for \$10. To subscribe, Affiliate Members may send a request, with the appropriate fee, to the OGEHR Membership Secretary, Ken Whatman, at membership@oge-hr.ca. Clapper Chatter is also distributed electronically via a download link sent out in the Thursday evening email digest.

President's Message



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season sharing the beautiful sounds of handbell music, and time with friends and family.

A big thanks to the many people who work behind the scenes to help others "experience the magic of ringing".

- Choir Directors who worked hard to prepare choirs and to organize the past season's many events. They don't just happen!
- The 2019 Festival Committee which is hard at work preparing the "Peace by Piece" Festival June 6th – 8th at Fanshawe College. This is a very dedicated group, which has already spent a year working together. The next few months will be exceptionally busy for these committee members - Gail Bowes, Mary Loree, Ken Whatman, Barb Neal, Terry Head, Janis Cowie, Kim Leitch, Lloyd Winfield, Margo Tant, Merran Neville, and Lynne Current.
- Choir Directors across the province who are preparing choirs for the 2019 Festival's Massed, Tin, Copper A, Copper B, and Bronze Choir music.
- Clinicians who are preparing to lead workshops at the 2019 Festival.
- Area Reps and Directors who have had and are organizing area workshops in preparation for the 2019 Festival! These workshops are wonderful opportunities for choirs to come together and share a day of learning, fun and fellowship.
- Area Reps – Joan Bolam, Judy King, Sandra Thompson, Mark Matterson, Kathleen King Martin, Rob Cairns, and Shirley Reinders – who work hard to keep the choirs in their respective areas updated and supported.
- Man-Yee, our E-mail Coordinator, who makes sure you have **weekly** updates!
- Helen Coxon, the **Clapper Chatter** Editor, who makes sure this newsletter gets to you three times a year.
- Kim Leitch, working hard behind the scenes as our **Webmaster**
- The Education Committee—Debbie McMackin, Randy Mills, Barbara Peaker, and Marjorie Slinn—who are coming up with amazing ideas.
- Nancy Bell and Lloyd Winfield, members who sit on the Governance Committee.
- Barbara Peaker, our Instrument Loan Program Coordinator.
- Debi Sproule, our Music Lending Coordinator.
- The Fall Workshop Committee who worked hard over the summer to organize three workshops - Terry Head, Lynne Current, Janet Benedict, Cathie Banks, Ruth Baker, and Nathalie Poirier- Cox.
- The Nominating Committee – Janis Cowie, Kathleen Martin King – who are starting to fill the 2019 – 2020 slate of Directors, Board Appointed Positions, and Committee members.
- The OGEHR Board of Directors, who Chair the above Committees.
- Ken Whatman, Director of Membership, who has worked tirelessly to transition OGEHR's annual Membership to on-line registration.



The OGEHR Board focus over the past few months has been the implementation of on-line Membership – both for renewals and new members. This has been a big transition and we thank all of you for your patience as we work out the unexpected glitches that have presented themselves. Communication is not a one-way channel - we ask that you actively communicate with us by contacting any Board member when you have comments, questions or concerns.

Over the next few months the Nomination Committee will be hard at work filling the 2019 – 2021 slate for terms that are vacant and coming due. When you get a phone call and/or e-mail from this committee please consider getting involved at some level within **your** Guild – by staying in the same role you presently fill, getting involved with a different aspect of OGEHR, or coming on board for the first time. To maintain, sustain and grow OGEHR we need people who are willing to step forward to provide leadership and help out on committee work. We welcome and value your contributions and input.

Margaret Merkley

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR

The Board welcomes Randy Mills as our new Social Media Co-ordinator.



Randy started ringing as a guest with the Queensway Baptist, Brantford ringers during a festival at Brock University in 1986. His church in Hanover had just purchased a two-octave set of bells - and he has gone on to introduce bells at 7 institutions (18 octaves of bells, and 2 of chimes). Born in London, Randy studied organ at Western and Concordia Lutheran, Chicago. Now in Cobourg, he is Chapel Organist at Trinity College School, where he also directs 3 bell groups using a 5-octave set, is Organist and Choirmaster at St Mark's Anglican, Port Hope (they have just bought a used 2-octave set of chimes) and directs a girls' choir at Sacred Heart RC, Peterborough (with a used 2-octave set of bells).

A full list of Board and Committee members will be published in the June issue of Clapper Chatter, following the AGM.



Smart, talented, committed, energetic people (like YOU), who are interested in making music, having fun, and being part of a team are needed by OGEHR, beginning after the annual meeting in June 2019.

OGEHR is an amazing group of handbell directors, ringers, clinicians and friends, that offers information, assistance, resources and opportunities for Handbell choirs all over the province. In order to function effectively, we need new people to step up and join the OGEHR team. People who get involved are people who have the most fun.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? We need new **DIRECTORS ON THE OGEHR BOARD** to share the work load. Meetings are 4 times a year, plus the Annual Meeting. Conference Calls are possible for Board members to "attend" a meeting, if circumstances, including distance, prevent attendance in person. Directors have a three-year term. Travel costs to Board Meetings for out-of-town Directors are paid.

We miss having an Area Rep from Central East and would love to have someone step forward to fill this vacant position. We also need **members for all Standing Committees - Communication, Governance, Education, Program and Development Committees** that generally meet via Conference Calls and have a one-year term.

We are pleased to have Randy Mills taking on the role of Social Media Coordinator on the Communication Committee, effective immediately and ending at the 2020 Annual Meeting. We look forward to others joining our OGEHR team.

If you are interested in having your name out forward to be part of the OGEHR team as a Director or Committee Member, or know someone who could meet our needs, please contact Joan Bolam at 519 473 7887 or jabolam@rogers.com. Joan will speak with all prospective candidates directly before taking names to the OGEHR Board for approval in April. Thank you for your help.



The 2018 Membership Drive went very well and the majority of choirs have returned.

We also have a few new choirs that have joined us for the first time or return after an absence.

If you have not joined us but still intend to be members in time for the Festival, please join as soon as possible.

Help me welcome these new or returning choirs.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ❖ Burlington – Port Nelson United Church | ❖ Midland – St Paul’s United Church |
| ❖ Collingwood – Trinity United Church | ❖ Mount Albert – Mount Albert United Church |
| ❖ Etobicoke – Royal York Road United Church | ❖ North Bay – The Joyful Bells |
| ❖ Ingersoll – SCM Community Choirs | ❖ Petrolia – Christ Church Ringers |
| ❖ Lindsay – Cambridge Street United Church | ❖ Richmond Hill – St Matthew’s United Church |

Education Committee

The Education Committee would like to touch base with schools in the London area that might be interested in attending the 2019 Festival as Observers. If you know of a school or a person we should contact, please get in touch with Debbie McMackin at demcmackin@sympatico.ca.



We are also working on getting a list of clinicians who would be interested in going into schools to work with students. Clinicians would require a CPIC to work with students. Fees would be negotiated through OGEHR. If you would like to get involved with this initiative or know someone who would be a good fit to work with students, please contact Randy Mills at rmills@tcs.on.ca.



Honouring the memory of a loved one through a gift to the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) will create a lasting impression. When a loved one passes, you may choose to have friends and family members make donations to the OGEHR in lieu of flowers. We will send you a list of names of those who have contributed in memory of your loved one. Income tax receipts will be sent for all donation \$20 or higher.



Remembering Stuart Belson

Stuart Belson passed away on December 19, 2018, at the age of 91. His impact on the Canadian handbell world has been incalculable, and he will be greatly missed. Three former colleagues share their memories.

From Olive May:

Stuart directed the Chancel Ringers at Gloucester Presbyterian Church back in the early nineties. In 1993 he boldly took us to our first Handbell Festival in Kingston, Ontario. We were very new to handbell ringing and this was an amazing experience for us and was also the first of many festivals for some of us.

Stuart was invited by the Iqaluit music society to bring the Metamorphosis Handbell Choir to Iqaluit. So in early May of 2001, 12 ringers plus Stuart headed north for an opportunity many will never have again.

We played two concerts, the first one on the Saturday evening and the other on the Wednesday, which we managed to do even though there was bad weather that day. We also played at two services in the Anglican Church on the Sunday, one in English and the other in Inuktitut. For the second, of course we were unable to follow what was being said - thankfully music is an international language on its own. We also were able to visit some of the local schools and were given a performance by the Handbell ringers in the High School. This was an experience that I will never forget and I feel honoured to be able to play bells under Stuart's expert directorship over the years and to call him a very dear friend.

From Lira Buschman:

Stuart Belson directed the adult ringers at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Ottawa upon his return to Ottawa in the mid 1980s. Many of the ringers had children who were in the children and youth bell choirs and wanted to give it a try themselves. He took an ambitious bunch and turned them into a group of musicians.

My own experience with Stuart began long before he returned to Ottawa. Growing up ringing bells, I had heard about the "Great Stuart Belson". He was known for being a high calibre musician who expected and got the best out of his choirs. I remember seeing him as a child and thinking how serious he always looked.

When I had to finally graduate to the adult group, I was petrified of working with Stuart. I will never forget walking into the hall where the bells were all set up and speaking to him for the first time. He turned to me and said in a very serious tone, "I don't know what you are used to but here, we start at perfection and work our way up from

there. And by the way, you are allowed only one mistake." I think I must have looked like I was about to cry because after keeping a straight face, he broke out laughing and said I could breathe.

That was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. With Stuart, there were so many adventures and lots of laughs. We visited many churches and he took me with him to help introduce bells to many congregations, school groups and camps. He had faith in our ability to play challenging pieces or do small ensemble music. He somehow knew that we could accomplish different things before we knew it.

He taught me the importance of technique - that practice makes permanent and not perfect: "If you do something incorrectly, then you will always do it incorrectly". He taught me that it wasn't how complex a piece was that made it amazing - that the simplest piece of music, when played musically, could be incredibly heartfelt. He taught me not just to read music but to find the meaning behind the notes. He would say to play with intention. "If you're going to make a mistake, do it with purpose."

Under his directorship, I learnt so much about music that I didn't know was there. What I didn't realize was that he was teaching me all things that helped me grow into the adult I have become. I am forever grateful to have known Stuart Belson. He blessed many of us in so many ways by just being Stuart.

From David Chin:

Stuart Belson at Trinity Presbyterian Church

Stuart introduced me to bells when we each went to Presbyterian Music Camp for the first time in 1992. We shared a room at camp, and so it was a natural opportunity for Stuart to introduce to me the art of ringing English handbells. Stuart believed we all should know a bit of the history of ringing, whether we were ringing ourselves or were being treated to what might be our first opportunity to hear them. He gave me a safe spot in the choir and started me ringing, all the while instilling an appreciation for the fine points of ringing (of which there were many...) "Handbell Ringing is the fastest growing activity in Canada," he used to say. Of course, in Eastern Ontario, Stuart was largely responsible for that. When the Handbell Director's Roundtable of Eastern Ontario, of which Stuart was a regular member, held a director's workshop a couple of years ago, we found that 18 of the 22 directors coming from as far away as Cornwall, and even

Montreal, had started ringing under Stuart's direction. Stuart's love for bells and his anxiousness to help people learn about and appreciate them was second to none. He was always ready at the drop of a hat to take on another beginner, or to explain the qualities of handbells to every admirer.

Stuart started the Trinity Hilltop Ringers in 2004, and brought them from a beginner to a level 3 choir in 4-5 years. Unfortunately, due to health concerns, Stuart had to retire from directing them just a couple of years later, but continued developing Trinity's bell program as he began the Stuart Belson Small Ensembles and Bella Duetto. Here he was able to pass more of the musical responsibility to the ringers, incurring less personal stress, and so was able to continue directing bells until less than 2 weeks before he died. Stuart's enthusiasm and work ethic shall live on at Trinity; we will truly miss him, but shall endeavour to carry on his work as generously as he did.

Notes from the Music Lending Library

The OGEHR Music Lending Library is going strong under the leadership of Debi Sproule. For a complete list of current titles in the library, visit: <https://ogehr.ca/handbell-links/handbell-music-and-accessories/music-lending-library/>

Here is a reminder of what you need to know when you borrow music from the library.

- It is the responsibility of the person borrowing the music to ensure it is returned to the library in good condition.
- Marking the music with a light pencil is okay but do erase any markings when you are finished.
- Please do not separate the pages.
- Please do not add scotch tape anywhere on the music.
- A maximum of four titles can be borrowed for up to one year.
- It may be that there are not enough copies of some pieces for each ringer to have their own, so sharing is often necessary. It is against copyright law to photocopy originals.

If you have any questions regarding the lending library, please contact Debi Sproule at: debisproule@gmail.com



FOR SALE

1. 3 chromatic octaves of Malmark English Handbells with **new travel cases**, great condition. Refurbished at the Malmark Factory in 2013. Also included are the bell pads, bell binders, twin mini lights for the binders, and music. All you need are gloves and you are ready to begin your choir.... \$10,000 Cdn.
2. 3 chromatic octaves of Malmark hand chimes, great condition.... \$1,200.00 Cdn.
3. 1 single bell F3 in own case.... \$400.00
4. C4, C#4, D4, D#4 in case \$900.00

Transportation of these articles from Sarnia are the responsibility of the purchaser. The prices are non-negotiable.

If interested please contact me at 519-491-5804.

Marg Johnson



Greetings!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the January 2019 Handbells etc. newsletter. Highlights include an article on bells on elementary schools, upcoming events and music reviews.

Thanks for your interest in handbells!

Camille and Susan

HANDBELL HAPPENINGS—A roundup of events and news

PREPARING FOR FESTIVAL 2019

On Saturday February 2, four Central West Area choirs met at Lorne Park Baptist Church to rehearse the Copper B festival music. There were 30 ringers in total and we were fortunate to have Stuart Sladden present to lead us through the 3 movements of *Peace in Our Time* by Cathy Moklebust. Based on our rehearsal with Stuart, our time with him at this year's festival promises to be fantastic. This event follows a massed rehearsal in October where we ran through the massed pieces with representation from 6 area choirs. We are all looking forward to being in London in June.



Stuart Sladden with members of Christ Church Bells Canto, Eden Bells aPeel, St. Peter's Handbell Ringers and Lorne Park Bells of Praise

Barbara Neal and Mark Matterson

We also have a concert to promote St Peter's Erindale Spring Concert featuring the St Peter's Handbell Ringers with special guests Ontario Male Chorus and Boys in B. Sunday April 28 4pm at St. Peter's Erindale Anglican Church - 3041 Mississauga Rd, Mississauga (northeast corner of Dundas and Mississauga Rd). Admission is 'Pay What You Can' (suggested \$10-\$20).

Mark Matterson
OGEHR Central Area Representative

The Bells of St Matthew's participated in the Nov 11 remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1. We played for our Local legion and did a change ring. We were given a plaque to commemorate our participation and a pin.



Bronze Foundation at Wexford Heights United Church Dec. 8th



On Dec. 8th, the Bronze Foundation performed at Wexford Heights United Church in Scarborough. We played 8 Christmas pieces including Sleigh Ride, Three King Swing, Ukrainian Bell Carol, On This Day Earth Shall Ring and Blue Christmas. We also did something different this year. Interspersed with the bell choir's Christmas numbers, members played on other instruments. Ringers displayed their versatility and musicality by performing vocally or instrumentally in ways other than through handbells. Sandra Jean Bedford, J.-C. Coolen, Janis Neuland, Linda Wilson, Helen Coxon, David Keith, Man-Yee Sun, and Lisa Kyriakides all added variety to the program. At the end of Ukrainian Bell Carol, our G2 is played and during the intermission audience members were invited to come up and give it a try! The joy of performing and the talent displayed was evident throughout the evening. At the end of the concert, a reception was held with audience and musicians sharing conversation and refreshments.

Debi Sproule



SHARING THE RING

*How do you spread the word about handbells?
Randy Mills and the handbells of Trinity College
School in Port Hope are doing a spectacular job!*



The Johnson Ringers, TCS, in the Memorial Chapel in October, 2018, our first-ever Halloween-themed concert.



Photos from the annual *Week Without Walls* event at TCS - our *Me-To-We* phenomenon for the whole school, when students head out to all sorts of sites.

Eleven senior ringers spent three wonderful days at St Joseph's Separate School, Bowmanville, teaching ringing to 230+ children from Grades

4 to 8. Over thirty of the local students joined us for an hour-long concert of Christmas music on the Wednesday evening at the church next door.



TCS Johnson Ringers at our school's 93rd annual Lessons and Carols (following the King's College UK format, marking 100 years ago this year). The ringers provide preludes for the two services, as well as an intro. to the Chapel Choir's singing of



'Carol of the Bells'.

Fall Workshop Review

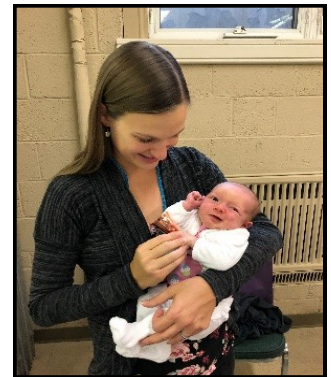
On behalf of the fall workshop committee of OGEHR, we thank the members who supported the GTA location event that was held on Saturday, October 13th at St. John's York Mills Anglican Church. Special thanks are expressed to Janet Benedict, who was our site-lead for that workshop. She took on many tasks in making sure the day ran smoothly.

We thank Debi Sproule for bringing her Lending Library to the Fall Workshop.

We also thank Barbara and Adam Peaker for setting up a display of their Malmark products and having them for sale.

A special treat was the presence of our newest and youngest bell ringer – Charlotte Marianne Peaker, who was born on September 17th. She weighed in at the same weight as an E3 Malmark bell! (6 lb. 9 oz.)

She has been to several bell practices already where she freely expresses her opinions!



Sadly, the Ottawa and London events were cancelled due to a lack of registrations. The one workshop format, three locations, as set by the OGEHR Board doesn't necessarily seem to be creating as much interest in the other geographic locations as the Board hoped, by having the workshop run in the Ottawa and London areas.

As a result, the fall workshop committee and the Board have had some discussion around possible new ways of doing things that might be of interest to more people. Be on the lookout for some new proposals that will be coming to the Board in April and then shared with the membership around the time of the Festival in early June.

Over the past two years, your fall workshop committee has worked hard to put on an event that we thought would be helpful to both new and seasoned ringers, but since registration numbers have been low, we are listening and will be responding. Sincere thanks are expressed to all the volunteers who make up this committee:

Lynne Current (coordinator, and Ottawa site-lead), Margaret Merkley (workshop session coordinator), Ruth Baker (registrar), Nathalie Poirier-Cox (secretary), Janet Benedict (GTA site-lead), Cathie Banks (London site-lead 2018), Anne Cummings (London site-lead 2017.)

Terry Head, Chair, Fall Workshop Committee