



Plan to join us on Saturday, May 23rd for the OGEHR Spring Ring and AGM!

OGEHR's Annual Meeting and Program

When: Saturday, May 23rd 12:00 to 4:00

Where: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
115 St. Andrew's Road,
Scarborough, ON M1P 4N2

Schedule:

12:00 – 1:15 Registration with coffee and muffins
Lending Library on display

12:15 – 1:15 Personal or small group coaching
(As requested and available)

1:15 Welcome

1:30 – 2:30 Leveled "Read and Rings"

2:30 Sharing

3:00 – 4:00 Refreshments
OGEHR's Annual Meeting (about 15 min)
Premiere showing of OGEHR instructional videos
Door prizes

Registration: Free for OGEHR and OMEA members
Non-members, \$10.00
On-line registration starting March 20th (watch the e-mail tree!)

Not from the GTA? Plan on coming to Toronto for the day or the weekend, and spending a half day with us!

HIGHLIGHTS

Remembering Terry Head
2021 Festival Save the Date

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.

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

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:
Simon Spencer — Clapper Chatter Editor
simon.spencer1993@gmail.com
416-702-5661

Contents

Annual Meeting.....	1
President’s Message.....	3
Looking for Help.....	4
Newly Elected Officers.....	5
Spreading the Word.....	6
Remembering Terry Head.....	7
Presentation of Bell.....	8
International Handbell Symposium.....	9
Canadian Music Class Challenge.....	9
Music Reviews.....	10
2021 Festival Save the Date.....	11
Board of Directors.....	12
Board Appointed Positions.....	13

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 Simon at simon.spencer1993@gmail.com.

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



President's Message

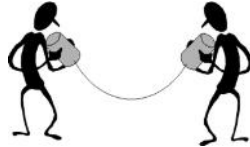
Wishing everyone heartfelt thanks for the work done behind the scenes that helps others "experience the magic of ringing".

- Choir Directors across the province who worked diligently to prepare choirs and organize the Christmas season's many events. (They don't just happen!)
- OGEHR's Area Reps and Choir Directors who planned workshops during the Fall, and are currently organizing workshops for the Spring. These workshops are wonderful opportunities for choirs to come together and share a day of learning, fun, and fellowship.
- Man-Yee, OGEHR's E-mail Coordinator, who makes sure you have weekly updates! (WOW!)
- Randy Mills, OGEHR's social media coordinator, who puts the face of OGEHR on Social Media.
- Joan Bolam, OGEHR's Chair of Area Reps, who along with Area Reps Judy King, Mark Matterson, Rob Cairns, heather nicholson, and Shirley Reinders, updates and supports choirs and directors in each Area.
- Simon Spencer, OGEHR's new Editor, who has published his first issue of the Clapper Chatter. (Congratulations!)
- OGEHR members who have taken time to write and send articles to Simon. (Thank you!)
- Barbara Peaker, OGEHR's Instrument Loan Program Coordinator, who arranges to loan OGEHR bells.
- Debi Sproule, OGEHR's Music Lending Coordinator, who maintains OGEHR's music lending library.
- Kim Leitch, OGEHR's Webmaster, who has worked tirelessly since last June to reformat our website and facilitate membership renewal.
- Helen Coxon, OGEHR's Membership Secretary, who is always ready to answer questions on how to register or renew OGEHR membership.
- Rob Cairns, OGEHR's Chair of Education, who along with members at large Debbie McMackin, Matthew Boutda, Peggy David, and Randy Mills, is developing a working relationship with OMEA and planning the filming of instructional videos for OGEHR's website.
- Nancy Bell, OGEHR's Chair of Governance, who along with members at large Linda Wilson and Lloyd Winfield, works out the fine details of policy and procedure for us.
- The Program Committee - Barbara Peaker, Debi Sproule, Helen Simeonov, Tatyana Antonshina, Lloyd Winfield, and Eleanor Keith – who are planning the program for our Annual Meeting on May 23rd.
- Janis Cowie, OGEHR's Chair of Nominating, who along with Area Reps Judy King, Mark Matterson, and Shirley Reinders, and Joan Bolam, is starting to fill the 2020 – 2021 slate of Directors, Board Appointed Positions, and Committee members. (Please consider getting involved, when they call.)
- Janis Cowie, OGEHR's Chair of the 2021 Festival, who along with Gail Bowes, Lynn Current, Kim Leitch, Amy Baker, Sue Buckingham, Jan Haskin, and Judy King, is building the foundation for the 2021 Festival.
- Mary Loree, OGEHR's Corresponding Secretary, who keeps all Board members informed and on track.
- Jennifer Bell, OGEHR's Treasurer, who makes sure our finances are managed.



The OGEHR Board's focus has been on the implementation of on-line membership and communication.

- The implementation of online membership using a new program has been a huge transition for all of us. **We thank all of you for your patience as we work out the unforeseen logistics that have presented themselves.** Please remember that while you have not paid your annual dues until January this year, this year's membership dues go towards maintaining and sustaining the infrastructure that supports all OGEHR activities. In addition, please remember that the folks behind the scenes are all volunteers who balance their everyday responsibilities with their OGEHR roles.
- 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.



Sincerely,
Margaret Merkley,
OGEHR President

Looking for Help

The Nominating Committee is currently looking for people to help OGEHR in various positions starting in June 2020. OGEHR is run by volunteers and there are many areas that you can help us with. Please don't be afraid to consider one of the positions below. We are mainly looking for people to talk about the bell community and work together on some new ideas or programs. It is not an onerous task and doesn't take much time. Most meetings are by conference call, so you don't have to leave the comfort of your own home.

We are looking for –

- i. Directors
- ii. Area Reps
- lii. Members on many Committees

If you receive a call from a nominating member, please take the time to consider helping out for one year. You'll meet other bell ringers and enjoy hearing new ideas.

If you would like to know more, please contact Janis Cowie at 905-891-1650 or jlcowie@rogers.com.

We Need You!

Introducing Newly Elected Officers



Nancy Bell

Nancy began ringing bells in about 1985 at Lorne Park Baptist Church. For a number of years her family attended the American Baptist Musicians Conference in Green Lake Wisconsin, where they honed their bell-ringing skills with some very talented clinicians. When their choir director left in the 1990s, Nancy stepped in as director and continued for about 13 years. Since Nancy's rule was that a parent had to come along to practice, her choir was a mixture of young and old. Later, she had enough junior ringers to form a children's choir, that her daughter Jennifer, led. Now Nancy's sister, Barbara Neal, leads and Nancy rings. Ringing is definitely a family passion!

Professionally, Nancy worked as the Director of Administration and Treasurer for the Baptist denominational office for almost twenty years. She currently serves as Treasurer for both the Baptist Foundation and her local church.

Nancy is a new Director on the OGEHR Board who Chairs the Governance Committee.



Rob Cairns

Rob Cairns is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Music where he received both his Honours Bachelor and Masters degrees, and Althouse College where he completed his Education degree. Prior to this, he attended Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, graduating in Technical Theatre. While at University, he was presented with both the Albert Winslow Award in Choral Conducting and the Don Wright Scholarship in Vocal Music. Rob is presently a teacher at the, Lester B. Pearson School for the Arts in London, Ontario where he specializes in Vocal Music and Drama. As a conductor he works with Pearson's grade 7 school choir, the grade 8 school choir, the Pearson Singers - a grade 4 to 8 auditioned choir, and Twelve - a group of select senior students who are given the opportunity to work on vocal pieces at a very high level of artistry. He also conducts the St. Thomas Youth Choir and the St. Thomas Children's Choir. The Youth Choir regularly tour overseas to participate in international choral festivals. In drama Rob works with the grade 7 and grade 8's. Last year, the grade 8's staged "King Lear" by Shakespeare, and performed "Hamlet" in January, 2019. Outside of school Rob performs as tenor soloist on various concert series in the southern Ontario area and is the tenor soloist and director of the four handbells choirs at Metropolitan United Church.

Rob has been the West Area Rep for OGEHR for two years. In addition to this role he now sits as a new Director on the OGEHR Board and Chairs the Education Committee.



Kim Leitch

Kim Leitch has been hooked on handbells ever since her church started an adult choir fifteen years ago. While she had a music background as a bassoon player in community orchestras, playing handbells was a new and challenging opportunity. After six years playing, the outgoing director asked if Kim might consider taking over. Enthusiastically chanting her five favourite words, "how hard can it be?" Kim took on the role. While it was harder than she imagined, thanks to videos, books, OGEHR's amazing workshops, festivals, and new-found OGEHR friends, she hasn't looked back and enjoys every minute!

Kim wears many hats within OGEHR. She was Secretary for the 2019 OGEHR Festival and is also the Secretary for the 2021 Festival. In addition to being OGEHR's Webmaster, Kim is now a new Director on the OGEHR Board who Chairs the Communication Committee.



Helen Coxon

Helen Coxon has been a ringer with Royal York Road United Church's 'Jubellation' handbell choir in Toronto since its inception in 1999, and has directed the group since 2008. Helen has worked at the Royal Ontario Museum for more than 30 years, and is currently a Senior Conservator specialising in Preventive Conservation. She was the Clapper Chatter editor for three years before handing over those duties in order to become OGEHR's Membership Secretary. Her spare time is used volunteering as Administrator for the Orpheus Choir of Toronto. She is also into making beaded jewelry.

We thank Helen for having been the Editor of the Clapper Chatter since 2016 – a job that she has done with skill and dedication. As she steps away from this position we thank her for encouraging her son Simon to follow in her footsteps and for assisting him during the transition. Helen is a new Director on the OGEHR Board and is the Membership Secretary.



Simon Spencer

Simon Spencer is a graduate of the University of Toronto, where he earned a Bachelor's in English. He works as a freelance editor, with a second career as a Fantasy and Science Fiction author. His first book, *Soul, Light, and Wings*, was published in 2017.

Simon has recently taken over as the Editor of the Clapper Chatter. This is a Board Appointed two-year term. In this role, he also sits as a member of the Communication Committee. This issue of the Clapper

Chatter is his first.

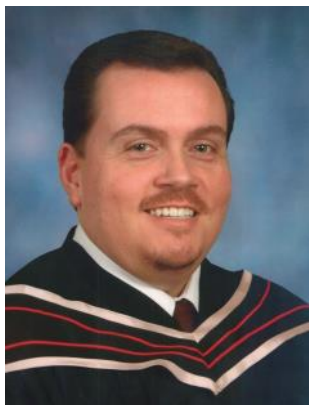
Submitted by
Margaret Merkley

Spreading the Word about OGEHR through Facebook

Members are asked to consider liking OGEHR's Facebook page (search for 'Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers'), which will help to get our message out through more connections. Concert dates can be posted, and I am especially keen to share videos of your bell choir performing a piece. Please contact me through our Facebook page, or at music@stmarksporthope.ca, and I will be happy to respond. Of course, you will want the approval of your members before sharing any information on social media, but I am happy to help in any way I can. We've shared some lovely videos from the ringers at Bracebridge United Church—thank you! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have an idea/suggestion/comment.

Randy Mills, OGEHR Social Media Coordinator

Remembering Terry Head



The handbell community in Ontario lost a talented musician, and a dear friend, with the sudden and tragic death of Terry Head, on November 18, 2019. His exceptional musical ability, his fine instructional skills, and his strong commitment to good music of any kind will be missed by many.

One of Terry's many musical passions was the art of handbell ringing. He was a brilliant director who was able to encourage his choirs to become talented and co-operative team players, and the best musicians each of them could be. He also loved to ring, and in spite of his very busy life, he delighted in ringing with the Ingersoll based auditioned choir, Bells Ablaze, under the direction of his long-time friend, Susan Carscadden-Mifsud.

Terry had been a member of OGEHR for many years, but he wasn't just a member who rang and directed. He sat on several Festival Committees tasked with organizing provincial festivals. Terry was an exceptional committee member, as he was so willing to step up and help out where ever the need might be. As part of his duties on the 2015 Festival committee, he travelled across the country side picking up and then setting up sets of bells for workshops. He also presented workshops, conducted choirs, and most recently was the Music Coordinator for the 2019 Festival held in June at Fanshawe College, here in London. This was a multi-faceted responsibility that required him to find a guest conductor, select all the music played at the festival, and facilitate mini-ring performances throughout the event.

In addition to sitting on Festival Committees, Terry also sat on the Board of Directors for OGEHR, primarily as Program Chair. However, this past year he accepted the role of Vice-President for which I was truly thankful. Terry and I were in constant communication about OGEHR. He was the ideal person to bounce ideas off; a person who could be counted on to provide positive constructive input.

While Terry was a true professional who did all of the above with grace and poise, he also did it with humility and gentle humour. At lengthy meetings, Terry could be counted on to keep things lively and fun, with his quick wit and mischievous grin!

Although Terry's death will leave a tremendous void in the handbell world in Ontario, we know that the energy, passion, and dedication he gave to this art form has been passed along to countless ringers. None of us quite know how we will move on without this caring, kind, thoughtful, generous man who we loved and respected – but I have faith that Terry's musical spirit will move us forward in the days, weeks, and years ahead.

Our thoughts go particularly to Terry's parents, Sharon and Barry Head, who lost their beloved son; to Ken Whatman, who lost his dearly loved partner and friend; and to the First-St. Andrew's Church in London, which lost a beloved Music Director. At FSA, Terry was director of the Senior choir, the Junior choir, the Senior handbell choir, and the Junior handbell choir.

Several people have approached the OGEHR Board requesting that we consider how we might, as an organization, honour Terry's legacy – a legacy of true leadership, musical talent, and strong collaboration. If you have suggestions, please contact Margaret Merkley at president@ogehr.ca by Sunday, March 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by

Margaret Merkley



Presentation of Bell
to
Cathie Banks
2019 Honorary OGEHR Member

OGEHR members who were at the 2019 Festival at Fanshawe College and/or read the last issue of Clapper Chatter will know that Cathie Banks was selected as the 2019 Honorary OGEHR Member. While she received recognition at the Festival and an article about Cathie was in the October issue of Clapper Chatter, the traditional bell that comes with this honour was not given to her until December 22nd.

Mary Loree, an OGEHR Director, was able to attend a church service on that day and present the bell to Cathie. This gave Cathie's church family a chance to share and recognize OGEHR's grateful appreciation for her years of dedication to the handbell community across Ontario!



Mary Loree and Cathie Banks



Cathie's Bell

Update on International Handbell Symposium



While some of you may have kept up to date with the news about the 19th International Handbell Symposium through e-mail tree posts, this article will summarize the events of the past six months.

Each country participating in the 19th International Handbell Symposium, scheduled to take place in Hong Kong, August 4 - 8, 2020, was asked to nominate a conductor to direct their country's selection for the Massed choirs at the Symposium. In turn, The Handbell Musicians of Canada (HMC) asked each Provincial Guild to select and submit one candidate from their Guild. Throughout the summer, OGEHR accepted applications and the nominating committee made up of Terry Head, Kim Leitch and myself, were delighted to be able to select Lisa Kyriakides as the successful candidate from Ontario.

Once each Guild had selected a candidate, each Guild President was asked to sit on the HMC selection committee. This committee was tasked with choosing the conductor from the applications received. Needless to say, OGEHR was thrilled when Lisa Kyriakides was selected to represent Canada as the Conductor, in Hong Kong. The piece she was asked to conduct was *Mosaic* by Betty B. Radford.

While this nominating process was underway, all of us are well aware that social and political unrest continued to fester in Hong Kong. At first, the planning committee made several accommodations they felt would allow the Symposium to take place but **a final decision to cancel the event was made at the beginning of December**. While Lisa is disappointed, she is aware that it was made with safety as the primary concern. We are waiting to hear back if Lisa's name will stand for the next Symposium to be held in 2022 in Nashville, United States.

Submitted by Margaret Merkley



Sound Wave Handbell Choir Director Jan Nordstrand
Burnaby, British Columbia

Many of you may have heard about the Canadian Music Class Challenge advertised on CBC radio. We are excited to let you all know that Sound Wave Handbell Choir under the direction of Jan Nordstrand from Burnaby, B.C won in the Senior Instrumental Division (Grades 11-12). They performed "Human" by Twin Flames (the official song of the International Year of Indigenous Languages).

As you might expect, this composition was not written for handbells! So it is exciting that this performance of "Human" was arranged by two of Sound Waves own student ringers Sonya and Rowena. These Grade 10 and 11 students are from different schools who met after rehearsals for weeks and then communicated electronically to transform "Human" into a composition for five octaves of handbells and four and a half octaves of chimes. Grade 7 student Linden assisted with inputting "Human" into Sibelius.

[Check this link to hear this amazing performance!](#)

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Music Review for Music Lending Library

For All the Saints, Sine Nomine, by Ralph Vaughan Williams and arranged by Andrew Birling is a 3 octave, level 2 piece. It is dedicated to the Tower Ringers of Zion Lutheran Church and opens with C7, F6, G6, and C6 doing an LV ostinato for 19 measures, while the bass comes in at M5 with the melody. It makes for an interesting and beautiful beginning.

In M 20, the lower treble bells start the melody, the bass do likewise 1 M later, and then the high bells do the same for a canon effect. The 3 melody voices are intertwined and add a lot of depth to this section. It is not an easy part of the piece considering the eighth note runs, but everyone gets to participate in the fun!

The middle part offers a contrast, with a change in key from F+ to D-. There are marts in the treble and bass while the other plays the melody.

The last section is in D+ with the heading Majestic, and finally Broaden for a stirring finish.

I loved working on this piece with my choir, the Sounds of Simon at St. Simon's Anglican Church in Oakville. I find it an interesting arrangement with so much to think about. We worked very hard on it and enjoyed the journey!

The Lending Library has 7 copies of this piece.

Debi Sproule

Music Review: Edelweiss

Bells of Blessing from Hampton has been joyfully ringing for 20 years. We ordered music from the lending library to expand our usual repertoire. We chose *Edelweiss*, a level 3. We began practicing the piece in October 2018 and played at the final service for our minister, who moved, in October 2019.

So, one year of practicing! When we first reviewed the piece, we were so excited. We talked about the memories *Edelweiss* stirred in us. Seeing 'The Sound of Music' at the theatre during a first date, watching the movie with our families, knowing word for word many of the songs in the film.

We regularly play level 2, and we found the rhythm a challenge. Our choir shared many laughs as we struggled with the rhythm. We thought, 'How can this familiar piece be so difficult?' We clapped and sung many measures, many times.

It was with a feeling of relief and a sense of great accomplishment that we played *Edelweiss*. We rang with joy and we heard from members of the congregation and the minister how they enjoyed the familiar tune.

Thanks to Debi for organizing the lending library so efficiently. You do a great job!

Janet Ward



OGEHR Festival 2021

SAVE THE DATE

You're Invited to Ring with Us!

MAY 27 – 29, 2021

St. Lawrence College, Kingston, Ontario

Details Coming in May 2020

OGEHR Board of Directors

As of December 2019

President Directors

Margaret Merkley ('21) (613) 532-8490 53 Shieling Crescent
President ('21) margandpetermerkley@gmail.com Kingston, ON K7M 4M7
*Chair: Board ('21), Acting Chair Programs ('22);
Honorary Membership*

<<vacant>>

Vice-President ('21)

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Past President ('21)

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Chair: Education ('21) rob.j.cairns@gmail.com London, ON N6C1V1

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Nominations ('20)

Kim Leitch ('22) (905) 830-5723 56 Dutch Settlers Crt
Chair: Communications ('22) kimleitch@sympatico.ca Holland Landing, ON L9N 1L9

<<vacant>> ('22)

Chair: Programs

<<vacant>> ('22)

Chair: Development

OGEHR Board Appointed Positions

As of December 2019

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heather nicholson C (647) 230-2254 H (905) 686-5676 62 Dooley Crescent
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<<vacant>>

Central Representative ('21)

Mark Matterson (647) 927-4337 2338 Brookhurst Road
Central West Representative ('20) mmatterson@rogers.com Mississauga, ON L5J 1R2

<<vacant>>

South Representative ('22)

Rob Cairns C (519) 670.0525 H (519) 672-6841 11 McKenzie Ave
West Representative ('21) rob.j.cairns@gmail.com London, ON N6C 1V1

Shirley Reinders (519) 538-3641 077797 11th Line R.R.1
North East Representative ('20) reindersshirley@gmail.com Meaford, ON N4L 1W5

<<vacant>>

North West Representative ('21)

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Kim Leitch (905) 830-5723 56 Dutch Settlers Crt
Webmaster ('21) kimleitch@sympatico.ca Holland Landing, On L9N 1L9

Festival Coordinators

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2021 Festival Coordinator ('22) bowes125@hotmail.com Ottawa, ON K1N 8A6

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