

## SEPTEMBER SOCIAL- A FINE START

During September, James and Tammy van den Brink opened their home to the Niagara Centre for an evening of fine food and entertainment. An outdoor barbeque ensured relaxation and informality, and was followed inside by a fascinating account presented by Peter Partridge on his adventures both as an organ student and as assistant organist at Westminster Abbey.

Originally scheduled for June, it was a treat to hear his anecdotes after the three-month delay.

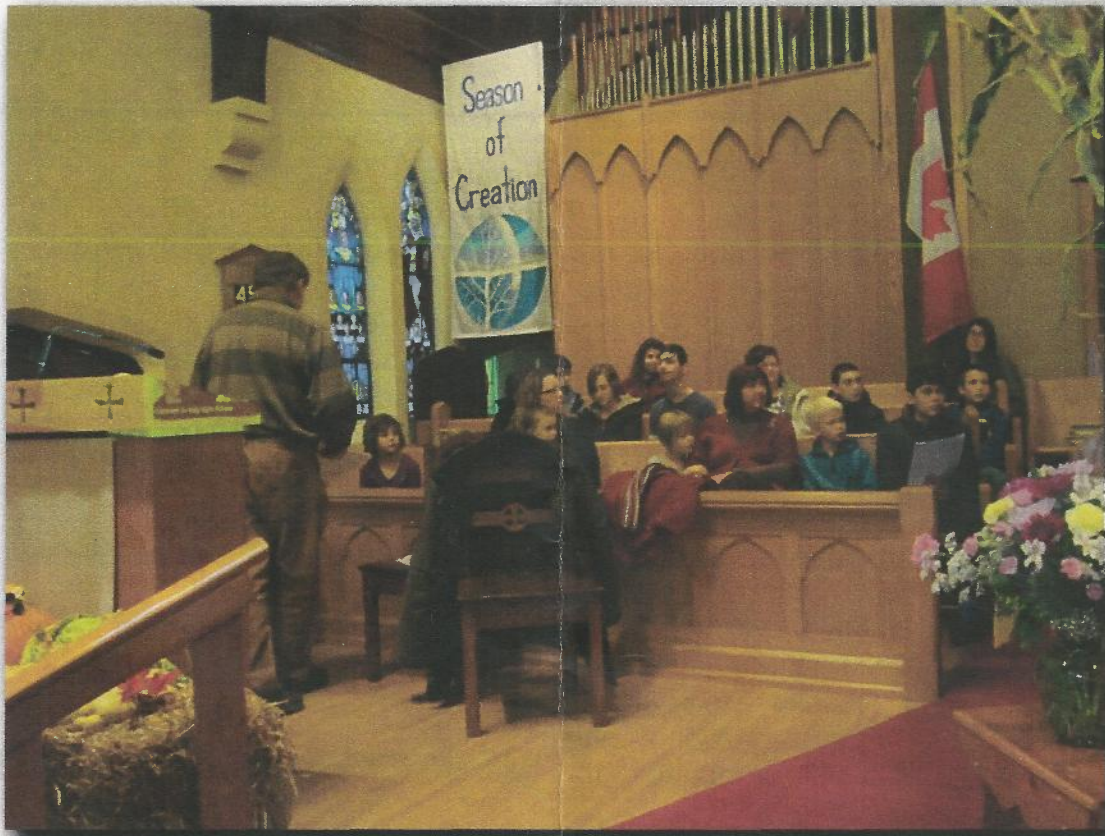
The combination of pot-luck and Paul Waite's hamburgers and hors d'oeuvres worked perfectly.

## PIPES, PEDALS, PIZZA

As the pictures below show, an excellent and enthusiastic group of young people braved a blustery Saturday morning in October to attend the Centre's Pipes, Pedals, and Pizza event. The presentation was spell-binding for the kids, as Paul Waite, Robert Anderson, and James van den Brink took them on a sonic tour of the colours of the organ, as well as a brief description of how the instrument works. The two-manual Walcker organ at Stamford United Church provided a good showcase because it has good examples of all the families of stops.

Dianne Humann was the emcee, and Marjorie Slinn hosted. After the presentation, piano students were invited to try the organ for themselves.

The hungry crowd was then treated to a pizza lunch, bringing the morning to a successful end.



## **TORONTO TOUR**

### **LOTS OF VARIETY, LOTS OF ENTERTAINMENT**

There is still time to register for the tour of **Wednesday, March 26** for a well-spent day in Toronto. The schedule includes shopping at two different venues, a visit to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, across from the Princess of Wales Theatre, dinner at a fine restaurant, and finally, the hit musical **CHICAGO** at the Princess of Wales Theatre.

#### **Here is the schedule-**

**10:00 a.m.**-Depart St. Catharines via luxury motorcoach. (boarding place t.b.a.)

**11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**-The Brewery District. Shopping, lunch on your own. Boutiques, artisan shoppes, cafes at the historic former Gooderham and Worts distillery at King and Parliament Streets.

**3:15-5:45 p.m.**-The following optional activities:

4:00 p.m.-A tour of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (across from Princess of Wales Theatre), including a demonstration of the 3 manual Carl Wilhelm mechanical action pipe organ in the gallery of the church.

A visit to the Steamwhistle Brewery at the historical railroad station roundabout building next to the C.N. Tower.

Shopping at Yonge Street's Eaton Centre and underground shopping concourse.

**5:45 p.m.-Fine dining at Il Fornello Restaurant**, 214 King Street West. A \$40.00 dinner voucher is provided toward the cost of the meal of your choice.

**8:00 p.m. the musical CHICAGO**

**10:30 p.m.** Bus departs for St. Catharines.

**Cost for the entire day: \$147.00.**

Make the cheque payable to the **Tunes and Treasures Travel Club** and send to Faye Shaver, 575 Simcoe St., Unit 15, SS1, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, L0S 1J0. If you received a flyer with a registration form, please include the form.

For further information please phone Faye at 905 468-7452.

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**Centre Executive  
Nominations, 2014-15**

*Nominations will remain open until the  
Annual General Meeting, June 1.*

**President and Social Convener**-Paul Waite  
**Past President**-Dianne Humann  
**Vice-President**-Rob Anderson  
**Secretary**-Marjorie Slinn  
**Treasurer**-James van den Brink  
**Membership Convener**-Ruth Schappert  
**Website**-Ken Stevens, James van den Brink  
**Newsletter Editor**-Ken Stevens  
**Telephoning**-Faye Shaver  
**Members-at-Large**-John Clipsham, Mery-Teresa Franceschini, Peter Snyder, Rodger Swinton, Jeanne teSligte, Carl Wolff.

(Nomination Committee-Carl Wolff, Dianne Humann, Ruth Schappert, Peter Snyder)



**PIPES, PEDALS, and  
PIZZA, revisited.**

A similar event is planned for next year, but with a specific age range in mind. The success of last fall's event suggests that piano students can be encouraged to prepare a "List A" type piece to try on the organ.

**Coming Events**

**Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.-**

Organ recital by **Ken Cowan** at Metropolitan United Church, Toronto. With 5 manuals and about 120 ranks of pipes, this is the largest pipe organ in Canada.

**Saturday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.**

**Avanti Chamber Singers**-"Songs of Nature". Music by Dvorak and others. St. Barnabas' Anglican Church.

**Tuesday, April 29, 10:30 a.m.**-Niagara Centre Executive meeting, Resurrection Lutheran Church.

**Saturday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.**-**Chorus Niagara** Dvorak's requiem at St. Catherine's Cathedral.

**Saturday, May 10-Local pipe organ tour-**

Organized by Ross Stretton and originating from his church in Oakville, all Niagara Centre members are cordially invited to join the tour for any or all of the stops along the way.

The morning visits will be to St. Thomas' Anglican and will include coffee and reception, then to Ridley College Chapel and St. Catherine's Cathedral.

Lunch will be at Silver Spire United Church.

The afternoon will begin at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Thorold and conclude at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

**Sunday, June 1-Annual General Meeting**

Port Dalhousie Yacht Club, time t.b.a.

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## BACH THE ORGAN PROVER

A condensation of an article by William Sumner,  
The American Organist, November, 1985

"No one has ever tried out organs so severely and yet so honestly as he. No one understood registration as well as he. Organ builders were terrified when he sat down to play on their organs and drew the stops in his own manner, for they thought that the effect would not be as good as he was planning it; then they heard an effect that astounded them. The first thing he would do in trying an organ was this. He would say, in jest, 'Above all, I must know whether the organ has good lungs', and to find out, he would draw out every speaking stop and play in the fullest and richest possible texture. At this the organ builder would often grow quite pale with fright." (Written by C.P.E.Bach to Forkel).

Bach was in great demand in Germany as an "organ prover". The testing or proving of an organ was an important task, amounting almost to a ceremony and sometimes occupying nearly a week in Germany, the Netherlands and France until the 19th century. It was clear that he had the faculty of tonal analysis to a remarkable degree, thus, when it seemed a good idea he was able to abandon the traditional rules of organ registration.

"It often happened that friends invited him to show off the organ. He chose a suitable theme which would serve for improvisation in many organ forms and he would often play for two hours or more without interruption. First a prelude and fugue on the grand jeu, then to show of his skill in the art of registration he used a trio or quartet, always on the same theme. Then a choral and the melody used as counterpoint with imitations in three or four parts. Finally there would be a fugue on the plain jeu, so that every part of the organ had been revealed." (C.P.E.Bach)

### Substitute Organists

Dave Cowan 905 227-7556  
[davidbcowan@sympatico.ca](mailto:davidbcowan@sympatico.ca)

Faye Shaver 905 468-7452  
[fayeshaver@cogeco.ca](mailto:fayeshaver@cogeco.ca) (weddings and funerals)

Ken Stevens 905 788-0511  
[cstevens\\_31@cogeco.ca](mailto:cstevens_31@cogeco.ca)

Rodger Swinton 905 935-9654  
[rswinton@cogeco.ca](mailto:rswinton@cogeco.ca)

Paul Waite 905 687-8728  
[pwaite1@cogeco.ca](mailto:pwaite1@cogeco.ca)

### THIS JUST IN

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., the Brock University Women's Chorus hosts guest ensembles: the McMaster University Women's Chorus and the Queenston Ladies Choir, in a concert showing the beauty and power of women's voices. This event, in celebration of International Women's Day, will take place at St. Thomas Anglican Church, 99 Ontario St., St. Catharines.

Tickets are \$17.00 adults, \$15.00 seniors and students.

Reserve at 905 688-5550 x3257 or  
[boxoffice@brocku.ca](mailto:boxoffice@brocku.ca).

### ONLINE ENTERTAINMENT

[pipedreams.org](http://pipedreams.org) for Michael Barone's website  
(excerpts from past programs)

[organists youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) for live performances