



# The Peal

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers

## Brand New ALGEHR Board! Find out who has joined the team

At the AGM in Fort McMurray, we welcomed two new faces to the ALGEHR Board and since then, there have been a few cabinet shuffles.

Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin has been elected by the Board as the new Interim President.

Calgarian Teresa Perreault is our new VP South representing ringers and directors in southern Alberta.

Fiona Bamforth and Anne Marie Telford, both of Edmonton, are the latest Members-at-large and will soon be taking on some projects and tasks. Read about Fiona on page 3.

Stay tuned for more information about Anne Marie in our next issue of *The Peal!*



## Handbell Discovery 2018: Borealis Bell Ringing in Fort McMurray

Mother Nature was on our side as the *Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia* caravan headed north one day before the annual festival started to perform at two elementary schools in Fort McMurray – Dr. Clark and Dickinsfield. We played to packed crowds of excited students whose eyes became almost as large as our C2 and were all begging to get “measured” using a rather unconventional bass chime method for our “rulers”.

Kudos to VP North Cathy Larson and her army of volunteers and moving crew who seamlessly transformed Holy Trinity High School into this year’s Handbell Discovery venue. A full day of workshops and rehearsal sessions awaited all participants.

~cont’d on p.2



## Save the date(s)!!!

Christmas  
Performances  
December 2018

Check the last page  
for the details!

Ringling Explosion!

Feb 28 or Mar 1  
2019

Visit [algehr.org](http://algehr.org) to  
register!

Classic  
Bronze/Copper  
July 3–6, 2019

Keep checking  
your Peal for  
upcoming info!

## Presidential Ponderings

Dear ALGEHR Members,

This is the last President Ponderings that I am writing. I am officially the PAST President now and am pleased to report that Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, with approval from the new Board, has agreed to step into an Interim Presidential role this year. With Emmy's vast knowledge of the board, and her enthusiasm for "all things" handbells, we are indeed fortunate to have her step into this role.

Newcomers Anne Marie Telford and Fiona Bamforth have been welcomed into the Board family, having now attended their first meeting, and we look forward to getting to know them better.



Other notable Board position changes involve last year's newcomers: Teresa Perrault has moved into our VP South position, Joanne Wong is officially now our Treasurer, and Sharon Vogrinetz will be assisting Joanne where needed.

We are so lucky to have all our Board members volunteer to keep this unique music organization skipping along. If you would like to communicate with any of us, see our ALGEHR email list in this Peal. See you at the upcoming ALGEHR events and at performances across our province!  
Cheers to all of you!!

*Anne*

Anne Hergott  
Past-President, ALGEHR



### **Borealis Bell Ringing** (Cont'd from p. 1)

Perhaps the most impressive outcome of **Borealis Bell Ringing** was the incredible turn out. This year was definitely a record for the books with 60 youth and 43 adults registered! As a result, the organizers had to scramble at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to open up another session as well as secure another clinician to lead a second youth group! This is a clear indication of the hard work done by Cathy and her team of amazing handbell teachers who have shared their passion with so many young ringers. **Bravo!!!**

The snacks and meals were delicious (how many cupcakes did YOU have?) thanks to the generous donations of local supporters of our event. As usual, the closing concert at the end of the day was a wonderful way to celebrate all the amazing learning and sharing that had taken place during the day – from the various youth ensembles to massed ringing to master ringing (learning one piece in one rehearsal!) **Jubiloso!** also had the opportunity to perform some solo pieces. Soloist Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin proved to the kids at Dr. Clark and Dickinsfield that she could in fact, "play all the bells by herself" with a few solos.

## Introducing New Board Member Fiona Bamforth!

My first introduction to bell ringing was in a bell tower in a church in London, UK in the late 1960s (I'm pretty ancient). After the first session, the church burnt down and I thought it best to leave bells well alone. I made a second attempt in 2005 when Alison Wood was the director of the handbell choir at Riverbend United Church in Edmonton and was then hooked. I am also a member of **Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia** handbell choir. I still regard myself as new to handbells which is a good but lame excuse for not being a very good ringer. In addition to handbells, I love gardening and entertaining my four gorgeous small grandchildren.



## 19<sup>th</sup> International Handbell Symposium Composition Contest



Calling all composers!!! Handbell Guilds of Canada is pleased to announce the **19<sup>th</sup> International Handbell Symposium Composition Contest**. The original piece must be an arrangement of Canadian folk song(s) written in the handbell idiom. Along with a \$1000 prize, the winning composition will be Canada's massed ringing piece in Hong Kong in 2020! Deadline is **February 15, 2019**. Contact [president@algehr.org](mailto:president@algehr.org) for more details.



## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 50th Anniversary

On Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the purchase of handbells at St. Andrew's in Lethbridge.

The first 2-octave set of handbells was purchased with funds donated by William Scott in memory of his wife Grace in 1968. Later that same year the first handbell choir was organized to provide music during the Advent Season. The Bell Choir was officially formed under the leadership of Miss Catherine Webster and named the **Scott Memorial Bell Choir** in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Scott. In March 1976 a third octave of bells was purchased with funds from William Scott's Estate.

Catherine Webster, who initiated the purchase of the bells and was the first choir director had seen the bells used in the school system and loved their sound. She knew that they would bring a beautiful new aspect to the music worship at St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was the first church to purchase Schulmerich bells in Southern Alberta, south of Calgary. A 3-octave set of hand chimes was later added to the set following a donation from the estate of Helen Binder. In the 1980s the Adult choir changed its name to the **Chi-Rho Ringers** and the **Chapel Bell Choir** for the youth.

During the 50 years of celebrating worship through the bells the choirs had only five directors: Catherine Webster, Carolyn McAvoy, MaryLee Voort, Fiona Miller and Joan Schaufele (who currently co-directs with Fiona Miller).

On October 28<sup>th</sup> the **Chi-Rho Ringers** began the service with a processional and provided all the music for the service. They finished with a wonderful and rousing rendition of "Come Celebrate" arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski. Throughout the service we had a slide show of photos taken at various times during our 50-year history. It was fun to recognise the faces of the many ringers over the years – boy, have the hairstyles ever changed!

~ by Fiona Miller, Co-Director, **Chi-Rho Ringers**, Lethbridge





### More Borealis Moments...





## Editor's Encore

Hohoho! It's really beginning to look like Christmas today, but I'm not looking forward to when I have to go shovel...your board has been playing musical chairs so please check out our roster here below to update your contact info. It's exciting to be driving the sleigh again, but look forward to even more support and help from all our ALGEHR members as we move forward with a brand new board! As some of us are already wearing multiple hats, it will be great to welcome new blood into various roles that are vital for our Guild. Don't be shy – there's lot of folks willing to show you the ropes! All the best with your merry festivities and see you in 2019!!

Peal Photo credits to: Fiona Bamforth, Anne Hergott, Fiona Miller, and Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin

### Not to be missed! (Send me your performances to be listed here!)

Wed, Dec 5, 2018 @ 12 pm: **Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia**, Campus Saint-Jean, Edmonton  
 Sun, Dec 9, 2018 @ 6 pm: **Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia**, Glory Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park  
 Sat, Dec 15, 2018 @ 2 pm: **Belle Époque**, Unitarian Church, Calgary  
 Sun, Dec 16, 2018 @ 2:30 pm/7 pm: **Parkland Bells**, St Andrews United, Spruce Grove

### Contact your Board!

Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin	President	president@algehr.org
Cathy Larson	VP North/Fred Merrett	vpnorth@algehr.org/composer@algehr.org
Teresa Perreault	VP South	vpsouth@algehr.org
Joanne Wong	Treasurer	treasurer@algehr.org
Rhoda Murray	Secretary	secretary@algehr.org
Lucy Graham	Membership	membership@algehr.org
Susan Galloway	Education	education@algehr.org
Anke Kelker	SEF Grant	sefgrant@algehr.org
Anne Hergott	Website	web@algehr.org
Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin	Peal/Social	peal@algehr.org/social@algehr.org
Anne Hergott	Past-president	pastpres@algehr.org
Fiona Bamforth	Member-at-Large	mal1@algehr.org
Anne Marie Telford	Member-at-Large	mal2@algehr.org
Sharon Vogrinetz	Member-at-Large	mal3@algehr.org

**Next Peal deadline!! Feb 15, 2019 ~ Please send me your submissions by this date!!!**