

S U M M E R 2 0 2 2



# The Peal

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers



## Bells@StTim's!

**ALGEHR** is pleased to report that the acquisition of the CUE (Concordia University of Edmonton) Collection (renamed the Albert Guild Collection or AGC) has a very successful community outreach pilot project!

**Wendy Hoskin** and **Sharon Vogrinetz** have been running a six-week introduction to bells program for people at St Timothy's Anglican and community. "We have eleven enthusiastic individuals who are learning the basics of ringing, various techniques used with bells and chimes and how to work as a team. The group has come along so quickly they have decided to prepare a piece to play at **Rev Clare Stewart's** induction. We have had a lot of fun and it has been a privilege to work with such a great group of enthusiastic people."

## Our Director-at-Large from SK!

**Carol Chernishenko** has been involved with handbell ringing for over 30 years as a ringer and conductor. Carol's first experience with handbells was a Christmas concert where her friend was ringing. At times, it was pretty music and other times it was magical!

It was several months before Carol could join the **Regina Bell Ringers (RBR)**, a community choir. With RBR, Carol started as choir member (C6D6 were hers!), then started solo ringing and finally small ensemble ringing when a few others wanted to try something new. For many years, Carol was the Secretary for the **Saskatchewan Guild of English Handbell Ringers** along with President **Carol Petrie**. After a slight break, Carol became the director at Wesley United Church in Regina. Although the choir took a pause due to COVID, it has provided music for church services and at seniors' homes for over 20 years. (Cont'd p. 3)



## Save the Date!

**Bells & Dessert**  
**June 3, 2022 @ 7:30 pm**  
Music and food – what could be better? St Albert United Church hopes you agree – \$15 tickets @ 780-458-8355

**20<sup>th</sup> IHS**  
**Nashville, TN**  
**August 1-6, 2022**  
No LATE fees!  
[IHS Nashville](http://IHSNashville)

**Handbell**  
**Discovery 2022**  
**St Albert United**

**October 14-15, 2022**  
Stay tuned for registration info at <http://algehr.org/>

## Presidential Ponderings

Finally, spring might just be here - I inspect the flower beds every day to see how many of my precious plants have survived the frigid winter and whether any of the 80 tulip bulbs I enthusiastically planted will appear. Just a few days ago the score was zero but yesterday I spotted four of them. Oh my gosh, I've just stepped outside for my daily tulip hunt and there are now seven – there is hope yet. Judging by the number of tunnels in the flower bed I rather suspect that my bulbs have been keeping an army of mouse stomachs full this winter. People in our neighbourhood are already asking when my gnomes are coming back from their winter vacation. Believe it or not, gnome gardens are a time-consuming and expensive undertaking. Every year you have to keep up the interest by adding something new. This year, thanks to Board member **Carol Chernishenko's** talented husband, **Bernie**, I have acquired two owls (Wallace and Waffles) and a tractor. Bernie also contributed other items to the silent auction part of **Spring Ring and Bling**.

**Spring Ring and Bling 2022** was a great success and raised over \$5,000 towards our purchase of the Alberta Guild Handbell Collection (AGC), formerly known as the CUE collection. We have now raised more than half the funds required for our final payment instalment, due March 2023. Past President and Peal Editor, **Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin**, spent hours working on both the silent auction and the concert – I have no idea how we could have managed without her fundraising expertise and her zeal in planning and making the evening a success. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction – there really was something for everyone. Finding suitable items is not easy so thanks for your ingenuity in digging in the attic, finding people to offer service items (my aged piano will receive some tuning therapy) and nudging friends, family and neighbours to do likewise. Many thanks to Treasurer, **Sharon Vogrinetz**, for her mastery of all things financial relating to silent auctions, to VP North, **Tammy-Jo Mortensen**, for her ability to provide thoughtful answers to any questions I throw in her direction, and to our MCs, the Lethbridge dancing and ringing duo, **Fiona and David Miller**. A further thank you for everyone's ingenuity in getting items from their original locations to their new homes.

The acquisition of the AGC has taken up a lot of time for the Board. Since the last edition of **The Peal**, we have finalized the purchase agreement, signed an agreement for storage and rehearsal time at St Timothy's Anglican Church in southwest Edmonton, purchased an insurance policy, moved the bells to their new location, instituted a weekly program for novice ringers, established a rental subcommittee, and discussed terms for rental agreements for any handbell group in Alberta wishing to loan bells from the collection.

An item discussed at our last Board meeting was **ALGEHR's** membership categories and whether we should move away from the current three categories – Regular, Ringer and Life Membership – to a new structure- Regular, Youth/Senior and Life Membership. The cost of Youth/Senior membership would be the same as a current Ringer membership. Under the new structure, all **ALGEHR** members would receive the same benefits of membership – currently, Ringer members, almost half of **ALGEHR's** members, are not able to vote nor become Members of the Board. There will be further discussion at the AGM in October. If approved, there will need to be a Bylaw change before implementation, likely September 2023.

Congratulations to **Karen Abrahamson** from Edmonton on receiving the **Stan Morris Award for Excellence in Handbell Teaching**. Largely because of the pandemic we have received no application for the past two years so it especially gratifying to receive a nomination this year.

Our webinar season came to an end on 14<sup>th</sup> May with **Camille Ream** and **Susan Galloway** providing a review of repertoire for the next season of ringing. This year's webinars focused on more advanced topics – teaching handbells, solo ringing and composing handbell music. We are planning already for another season of webinars and would appreciate suggestions for topics for members.

Don't forget **Discovery 2022!** **Lorna Walker** and her organizing committee are planning an enticing program for Adult and Youth ringers at St. Albert United Church on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October. Watch the website ([www.algehr.org](http://www.algehr.org)) for more details.

And now, back to tulip monitoring!

*Fiona*

Fiona Bamforth  
President, **ALGEHR**



## Our Director-at-large from SK! (Cont'd from p. 1)

Carol has been fortunate enough to attend four IHS – Edmonton, Albuquerque, Toronto, and Vancouver.

In addition to handbells, Carol keeps busy volunteering with artistic swimming as a national referee, organizing provincial competitions, and as a member of the **Saskatchewan Artistic Swimming Board of Directors**. In summer, Carol and her husband, **Bernie** (creator of Wallace and Waffles and the SK birdfeeder tractor (↑ see above pics ↑)), run a u-pick orchard with saskatoon berries, raspberries, and sour cherries.

Since SK no longer has its own Guild, we are delighted to welcome our neighbour Carol to **ALGEHR** and our Board and grateful for her insightful contributions and governance knowledge!



# Bells and Dessert

St. Albert United Church

Friday, June 3 7:30 PM

Tickets \$15 in advance 780 458 8355



Join Genesis, United in Bronze, and special guests for an evening concert.

Saskatoon berry pie, delicious rich chocolate cake, or homemade carrot cake will be served "to go" after the concert.

Doors open at 7PM Show starts 7:30PM

## Remembering Dorothy Kelker

On May 4, 2022, our **ALGEHR** handbell family lost a dedicated ringer, talented composer and committed supporter of our organization. We also lost a dear friend, a gentle soul and the most positive spirit that could not be defeated even in the face of life's most extreme challenges. While her multi-year journey with cancer came to a quiet end, those who knew her were fortunate to have witnessed her joy and passion for outdoor life and nature and perhaps have even learned more about them through her infectious enthusiasm.

During her final weeks, she did not back down from the call to donate and contribute to our virtual silent auction and concert, **Spring Ring & Bling**. Her original composition, "Tango", was the object of a hot bidding war. In true Dorothy form, she offered the prize to the two top bidders and effectively doubled the value of her precious gift to **ALGEHR**. One of the Guild's early donors from our **GivingTuesday** campaign, despite being very ill, she participated in a donor interview during the silent auction. Hopefully those who did not know of her hidden talents may have learned more about this very special individual. To discover more about her music, click [here](#).

When I asked her a few years ago about how her award-winning composition "Wild and Precious Life" came to be, she quoted these lines from **Mary Oliver's** famous poem "The Summer Day":

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
With your one wild and precious life?

This Level 4 original composition was the 2020 Winner of the **Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions, Category C**. Dorothy will be deeply missed by all of us, but her legacy lives on in her music. To me, "The Summer Day" is how I will always remember her.



~Submitted by Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, Editor, *The Peal*

## Handbell Discovery: Fall into Ringing October 14-15, 2022, St Albert United Church

### Adult Discovery Experience: For all handbell ringing levels!

- Friday, October 14: Wine & Cheese Welcome Reception (cash bar)
- Saturday, October 15: Massed Ringing with Juanita Pickerl (L1/2) and Debbie Rice (L3/4)
- Breakout sessions on a variety of topics including "Introduction to Ringing"
- Delicious catered lunch
- **ALGEHR** Annual General Meeting
- Final Wrap-up Concert (Tickets \$10 for non-registrants)
- **Registration: ALGEHR Members - \$75, Non-Members - \$117**

### Youth Stream Experience: Designed for students (Grade 5 and up) who love to ring handbells to hang out with like-minded ringers!

- Saturday, October 15: 10:30 am – 4:15 pm (start of sharing concert)
- Welcome fun and games
- Snacks
- Intense one-day learning opportunity to learn and prepare a selection to be performed at Final Wrap-up Concert
- Complimentary concert ticket (must attend with an Adult/Family Member, cost of \$10)
- **Registration: \$15**

**Check out [www.algehr.org](http://www.algehr.org) for registration information available later in June.**



The BOW RIVER HANDBELL  
MUSICIANS SOCIETY presents

# Rapids Concert

Elbow River Bells  
Bell Époque  
Bow River Bells  
Tributary Bells

[www.bowriverhandbells.ca](http://www.bowriverhandbells.ca)  
**7:00 pm**  
**Monday June 13, 2022**  
Temple B'Nai Tikvah  
900 - 47th Ave SW Calgary

Cash, Credit, NO Debit

**DONATIONS AT THE DOOR:** ( Suggested amount \$20 )

## News from Northern Alberta Ensembles

At Camrose United, our bell choir managed to ring a little over the past two years, including a few weeks outdoors in front of the church during the past two summers, working mostly with music that required no sharing of bells. We bought a couple of extra tables and foams so we could spread out a bit more when we moved inside in the fall of 2020, but that only lasted a few weeks. Last fall we were mostly back to normal (we were masked and will continue to be for the foreseeable future), and even managed a couple of mini-concerts of Christmas music, including outdoors in the snow in late November, as part of the Downtown Camrose tree lighting and Midnight Madness event. We were definitely thankful it wasn't too cold that day! We started up again this past March, rang for 9 or 10 weeks, and wrapped up our season by playing in the service on May 8. For nearly half of our rehearsals, we had at least 1 person missing because of just having been in close contact with someone who had Covid. That, along with some people away for various other reasons means we had our first rehearsal with everyone a week before our last service!

~ Submitted by Darryl Dewalt, Director, **EmBellish**



In 2020, **United in Bronze** were the proud nominees of the City of St. Albert's "Champion of the Arts" Award. This award recognizes an individual, organization or corporation who makes an exceptional contribution to the arts in St. Albert. Over the years, our bell choirs have provided outreach concerts for seniors, enlivened city events such as the **Light up St. Albert** event each November and hosted our annual **Bells and Dessert** community event. As volunteers we have certainly championed the art of handbell ringing in St. Albert. Winners from the 2020 nominees were announced at the award ceremony, April 7th, 2022. (Like everything else, the Celebration and Awards was put on hold for two years.) Though we did not win, we were honoured to have the opportunity to raise the profile of handbell ringing in our community. This week's Desserts are going to be grab and go on Friday, June 3, but the concert will be in-person! Please contact the church at 780-458-8355 for tickets.

~ Submitted by Lorna Walker, Director, **United in Bronze**

A small group of seniors at **NESA (North Edmonton Seniors Association)** have been ringing since fall 2021 with masking and distancing. We have not done any concerts but have played for ourselves and staff. This has helped to keep our ringing skills ongoing and challenge our bodies and brains as well as lifting our spirits.

~ Submitted by Wendy Hoskin, Director

## News from Northern Alberta Ensembles (Cont'd)

At Gaetz Memorial in Red Deer, we have been ringing on and off throughout the pandemic. We have 3-foot square tables so we split them apart and have changed music so we don't have notes that need to be shared. We have 2 groups: **Silverbells**, the beginner group and the **Gaetz Ringers**. Both groups play about once a month sometimes on the same Sunday. We have also had opportunities for a bell tree duet and small ensemble groups to play. For the last while, we have had ringers from different churches in the **Gaetz Ringers**. May 1 we were able to get out and play at Sunnybrook United Church during their service. On May 10th we played at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church for their **Celebrating Mothers** event. These are the first outings we've had in 3 years. It feels good to go out and share our love of music and handbells with others.

~ Submitted by Melanie Grant, Director, **Gaetz Ringers/Silverbells**



Here's a photo from November of 2020, just before we went into lockdown. At Athabasca United, we had been using chimes only (they were brand new) at music stands so we wouldn't need tables. We did videos of our Christmas repertoire and played them at various times. This year we got tv tables and pillows so everyone had their own station, playing at the seniors' residences and a church. We are practicing our spring repertoire and hoping to do some open-air concerts for our seniors in the local residences once the weather improves. We still mask in rehearsals as there are outbreaks at the schools still occurring but we are having fun with ringing and making music together.

~ Submitted by Monica Rosborough, Director

The University of Alberta Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers performed for the U of A Mixed Chorus 78th Anniversary Concert at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This was my final concert as Conductor of the UAMC, a position I've held for 36 years. I will carry on with the Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers and Adam Robertson, who has been the UAMC's assistant conductor since 2006 will take my place as Conductor.

~ Submitted by Bob de Frece, Conductor (Retired)

After two years of not performing and having off and on rehearsals – **Parkland Bells** had their Spring Praise concert on May 8 to an appreciative audience. Thanks to the wonderful ringers for persevering through Covid challenges.

~ Submitted by Juanita Pickerl, Director, **Parkland Bells**

**Jubiloso** has been fortunate to continue ringing throughout COVID and will be performing its 2<sup>nd</sup> concert this spring on Sunday, June 5 at St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran in Edmonton at 3pm.

~ Submitted by Debbie Rice, Director, **Jubiloso**





# **Jubiloso**

## **HANDBELL CHOIR**

**June 5, 2022 @ 3 pm**

**Hosted by St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
5104 Ellerslie Road S.W. - Edmonton**

## Who Loves ALGEHR?

Our recent online fundraiser, **Spring Ring & Bling**, was a resounding success, again, thanks to the overwhelming support of our **ALGEHR** members, friends and donors. We more than surpassed our silent auction sales goal and then some! With an additional \$5349.20 in online donations, the event raised a grant total of \$10,624.17. This brings the **Alberta Guild Collection** fundraising campaign to over \$31,400! Here are some thoughts from our next featured donor, **Moira Day**, about how **ALGEHR** has become an important part of her family's reality. Moira is a ringer, the mother of a ringer and an **ALGEHR** donor – although not necessarily in that order.

*The entire family has been active in music over the years through various choirs and musical instruments. Our youngest of our 3 daughters, **Linnet** got her start in bells through a youth summer music camp at Concordia University of Edmonton. She continued to ring with **JuBellation** during her BA studies at CUE. Since my husband and I are retired, we joined Linnet and started to ring as well.*

*We decided to support **ALGEHR's** fundraising efforts because the arts are a very good way for young people with developmental delays or cognitive/communication disorders to become involved as full members of the music and arts community. We have seen what playing in a handbell ensemble can do to teach students of all skills and levels the joy of making music together. If CUE had decided not to make that part of their educational and community mission by closing their School of Music, it seemed important that someone else should pick up the torch.*

*Playing bells is in some ways very similar to singing in a choir. You are part of a community working and creating together to make something larger than any one of the individuals involved – and then sharing that gift of music with a larger community yet again. It's just so important to do that as a way to break the solitude imposed by COVID. We're looking forward to the chance to play with friends and family again and possibly to share our music not just with Edmonton, but other communities and musicians. Although this year's tour of Slovakia and Poland was cancelled because of the war in Ukraine, we hope that travel will be possible again in 2023.*

*~ Submitted by Moira Day, Ringer, Christ Church*



## Stan Morris Excellence in Handbell Teaching Award

**ALGEHR** is pleased to announce that **Karen Abrahamson** of Edmonton is the 2022 recipient for this award. Karen has been a music educator for more than 15 years, working in the public education system, in two districts and with a variety of students, from kindergarten to junior high. Over her career, Karen has worked tirelessly to ensure that students have opportunities to experience the highest quality music education program possible. Karen has made handbell education and performance a foundation of her classroom music education program. **Stan Morris** (an Albertan music educator) was committed to developing handbell artistry and instilling the joy of music making in his students. It's clear that Karen too, excels in these areas of teaching. This award represents Stan's efforts to help teachers develop the skills, knowledge, ability, experience and proficiency they needed to create school handbell programs and to develop extra-curricular choirs. It also celebrates his efforts to help create **ALGEHR**, which continues to help promote the development of the Handbell Arts in Alberta. This award recognizes teachers who continue the legacy created by Stan Morris.

*Congratulations, Karen!*



## IHS Nashville Canadian Massed Conductor – Lisa Kyriakides

**Lisa Kyriakides** of Newmarket Ontario is the Canadian Massed Conductor for the International Handbell Symposium in Nashville USA. Lisa came to Edmonton on May 9 and 10 to meet with the handbell community and conduct "Mosaic", by **Betty B. Radford**, the Canadian music for this event. On the evening of May 9, after a pizza dinner sponsored by **Handbells Etc**, Lisa rehearsed "Mosaic" with **Resounding Joy** (directed by **Camille Ream**) at First United Church in Fort Saskatchewan. Earlier that day Lisa had a visit with Alison Wood and heard many wonderful stories of International Symposia of the past. May 9 also happens to be **Fred Merrett's** birthday. That meant a chance to meet Fred, sing Happy Birthday and, of course, ring bells. The following day, Lisa met with several people in the Edmonton handbell community including Debbie Rice and members of the **ALGEHR** and **HMC** Boards. As **Jubiloso** has been preparing "Mosaic" for some time, Lisa welcomed this opportunity to rehearse with them. She was very positive about the response from both handbell ensembles and their commitment to the music. We know that Canada will be well represented on the international stage in Nashville in August. We are very fortunate in Alberta and in Canada to have musicians committed to handbell musicianship.

~ Submitted by Betty B. Radford, **ALGEHR** Board Director


## HMC Board Elections


Important Update for all Handbell Musicians of Canada Members!!!





It's election time again for HMC Board Directors and if you are an HMC Member, you will have received an email regarding the candidates nominated for the various openings.

In case you haven't read it, here is a summary of the candidates and a [link](#) to read their biographies and candidate statements. Voting takes place June 20 – 24, 2022!

CHAIR-ELECT		<a href="#">View Details</a>
	Christie Noseworthy	Nanaimo, BC

SECRETARY		<a href="#">View Details</a>
	Lisa Kyriakides	Newmarket, ON

TREASURER		<a href="#">View Details</a>
	Cathy Koski	Edmonton, AB

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE		
	Lynn Boothroyd	Orleans, ON
	<a href="#">View Details</a>	
	Lynne Current	Cumberland, ON
	<a href="#">View Details</a>	
	Dr. Cathy Doerksen	Winnipeg, MB
	<a href="#">View Details</a>	
	Anne Hergott	Calgary, AB
	<a href="#">View Details</a>	

If you're not yet an HMC Member, click [here](#) for Membership info – it's only \$10/year and will keep you connected with handbell musicians from coast to coast as well as happenings around the globe!



## Announcing another way to support your Guild!

Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers can turn your vehicle into valuable dollars to help support our cause.

1-877-250-4904  
info@donatecar.ca



### Donate Your Car to Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers

We will arrange the pick-up of your vehicle at no cost to you. The vehicle will then be sold, and once we receive the funds, you will receive your tax deductible receipt within 2 weeks.

*It's incredibly easy!*



We accept any and all vehicles across the country, running or not, new or old.



For more information, visit  
[www.algehr.org](http://www.algehr.org)

## Editor's Encore

COVID put the brakes on so much in our lives from everyday happenings to significant milestones. Now as we slowly work towards reclaiming those special moments, how many can say that they attended a 98<sup>th</sup> birthday party for a dear friend? **Alison Wood, Betty Radford, Cathy Koski, Debbie Rice, Fiona Bamforth** and even **Lisa Kyriakides** (Canada's Massed Conductor for IHS Nashville) joined yours truly to celebrate the one and only **Fred Merrett** on May 9! **Amy**, Fred's wife, was in cahoots with us and we succeeded in pulling off a great surprise! Click [HERE](#) to see the big moment. Lisa missed the photo, but there were FOUR Canadian IHS Massed Conductors present! **Camille Ream, John Hooper** and **Tammy-Jo Mortensen**, we missed you, too!



*Photo credits: Karen Abrahamson, Fiona Bamforth, Moira Day, Darryl Dewalt, Melanie Grant, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, Monica Rosborough, Lorna Walker*

## Contact your Board!

Fiona Bamforth	President	president@algehr.org
Tammy-Jo Mortensen	VP North	vpnorth@algehr.org
Margaret Dunkerley	VP South/John Nelson Award	vpsouth@algehr.org
Sharon Vogrinetz	Treasurer	treasurer@algehr.org
Judy AtLee	Secretary	secretary@algehr.org
Lucy Graham	Membership	membership@algehr.org
Betty Radford	Stan Morris Award	smaward@algehr.org
Sharon Vogrinetz	Fred Merrett Award	composer@algehr.org
Rhoda Murray	SEF Grant	sefgrant@algehr.org
Carol Chernishenko	Director-at-Large	mal1@algehr.org
Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin	Fundraising	fundraising@algehr.org
Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin	Past-president	pastpres@algehr.org
Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin	Peal/Social	peal@algehr.org/social@algehr.org

**Next Peal deadline!! August 15, 2022 ~ Please send me your submissions by this date!!!**