

# The Bells are Ringing...

## Sunday Morning Chimes Ring Over Paisley

Where does that nostalgic sound come from?

Each Sunday morning, just before 10:00 am, many of you can hear the sound of chimes floating over the town of Paisley. These lovely sounds come from the Presbyterian Church. The organist, Helen Cumming is playing her favourite hymn tunes on a midi keyboard which, in 1997, was added to the digital Allen Organ.

The wiring system for the chime sounds had been installed back in 1949 with the purchase of the former organ, which came with chimes. The wiring was discovered to be usable, and is now piping the sound to a speaker system in the bell tower.

The chimes keyboard is linked up to a midi box which can produce about 200 other sounds. Not only can Helen play chimes with it, but also the sound of rushing water, birds singing, waterfalls, thunder - and sounds too scary to even mention. If Helen wished she could spoof the entire town simply by pressing a few buttons. Of course, Helen would never do that - at least, not intentionally. She admits that one day she forgot to reset the button for indoor use, and all of Paisley was able to hear her choir



Helen Cumming plays the chimes on this midi keyboard - either on her lap or beside her on the bench. The chime sound heard over Paisley comes from a sound system in the top of the church's bell tower.

practice session - until someone came rushing into the church to inform her.

On quiet days the chimes can be heard from a long way away. Helen's husband, Jack still remembers years ago hearing the chimes from his home farm, on the 10th Concession of

Elderslie.

The tradition of church bells dates back to early Middle Ages. A carillon of bells or a single bell would be rung to announce a service or other aspect of the church's life. Today, church bells can be electronically timed to

chime automatically. Technology has made it possible to digitally simulate the sound of real bells - just as it is in the Presbyterian Church in Paisley. In that way an ancient tradition is being maintained.

*Diane Eaton*

The Paisley Advocate June 2010

## Bruce County Historical Society Road Trip

On May 20, the Bruce County Historical Society and guests enjoyed a day in the Cargill area to learn more about Henry Cargill and the Greenock Swamp. In the morning the group gathered in the Cargill Hall where Shannon Wood from the Saugeen Valley Conservation Area gave a wonderful slide presentation to explain the history of the Greenock Swamp and its role in present day ecology of the area.

Mary MacKay recruited seven competent actors from the membership for the play she had written about the life and family of Henry Cargill. It was preformed on the stage for the enjoyment of all.

Following a tasty soup and sandwich lunch prepared by the local Cargill ladies, the group boarded a bus for a tour of the Greenock Swamp area.

The first stop was at the beautiful big "White House" originally the home of W.D. Cargill, now the home of Lisa Campbell. Although the house has been sold and Lisa will be moving the end of the month, she kindly



On the left, the Society visits the former home of D. W. Cargill. On the right, (L to R) is Doug Lennox, playing the part of Sir John A MacDonald; Bill Stewart, as DW Cargill, Henry's only son; Mary MacKay, narrator; Marguerite Caldwell, as Henry's youngest daughter. Henrietta who married Wilson Southam owner of the Southam newspaper Syndicate; Eleanor Thompson as Margaret, Henry's oldest daughter who married Senator William Humphrey Bennett; Anne Marie Collins, Curator of Bruce County Archives as the interviewer Opera-Anne-Marie; Brian O'Hagan, Walkerton, playing the roll of Henry Cargill; and Audrey Webb, Cargill, as Henry's wife Margaret Davidson.

invited the group to tour the grounds and some went inside.

The three-hour bus tour then continued with Anne-Marie Collins, Curator of the Bruce County Archives

as commentator. A few memorable highlights were the walk in to Schmidt Lake, and seeing the remnants of the canal system and the roads built from digging the canals. A few of the ruins of sheds built for stabling horses overnight were seen but there is nothing left of the camps where the loggers stayed. Some good sized pine trees have grown up along the trail and beautiful orchids and other rare

flowers were seen in the swamp.

The group also enjoyed hearing several myths and stories about the Greenock Swamp although they didn't see any pits of quicksand or holes, big enough to swallow a truck. No one was eaten by a man-eating plant or was even lucky enough to find a still from prohibition days!

*Mary MacKay*