

OBITUARY

John Pullen

John Pullen, born May 8, 1920, died peacefully in his sleep on the morning of August 4, 1999 at his home in Colborne. John is survived by his wife of 59 years Edith Louise (Ann), and his son Michael.

John served in the merchant navy in the Indian and Pacific Oceans and was called up to serve in the British army in the Second World War for active duty in Northern Africa in the tank corps. He was discharged with medical leave.

He emigrated to Canada in 1953 with his family and life-long friends. He worked in the aircraft industry in England and Canada for eight years developing production lines for aircraft. John left the aircraft industry for the manufacturing industry until his retirement to Salem in 1977. He and his wife established a semi-precious stone cottage industry and were recognized by many in the craft industry for their original work.

John and Ann enjoyed sailing and were members of the Presqu'ile Yacht Club and supported Salem Church. John is fondly remembered by his son Michael; Tom, Vic, Chan, Barbara, Heather; his relatives in England and Canada and all who knew him in Northumberland.

A memorial service was held at Salem United Church at 7 p.m. August 10. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Children's Telephone Help Line and the Kids Help Foundation, Suite 300, 349 University Avenue, Toronto M5G 1Y8, 1-800-268-3062.

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COLBORNE CHRONICLE

As county music festival turns 60, there's a dire need for volunteers

By MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

A 60-year Northumberland County tradition is facing a crisis. If volunteers don't come forward, the Northumberland Music Festival Society has some tough decision to make.

"We do not have enough people to fill our executive," Ruth Harcourt, President of the Northumberland Music Festival Society reports. "We should have about 12 people but we have about five right now. This is our third year with no vice president. This next year is our 60th year and we'll do it for sure but, for the future, we have to beat the bushes" to garner a board of directors.

For the past 59 years, thousands of musicians from across Northumberland County and beyond have tested their musical mettle at the annual Northumberland Music Festival. Traditionally held the last week in April, the venue alternates between Warkworth and Cobourg. The 60th festival will be held in Warkworth April 2000.

"This is the only county-wide event that draws kids from across the county and beyond," Mrs. Harcourt notes. "It's an open festival: entrants are welcome to attend from beyond the county. We have music teachers in Belleville and Peterborough who regularly send students."

The week-long festival is also open to all ages. The choir classes draw school choirs, church choirs and semi-professional choirs. The instrumental classes have entrants of all ages.

In addition, the volunteer, non-profit organization has the unique "new composers" class, offering a public concert forum for up and coming musicians.

The Festival Society is particularly looking for volunteers to work on the syllabus committee. The syllabus is the booklet which details the classes of competition. The syllabus is printed and distributed by November for circulation throughout schools, to music teachers, and choirs.

"It requires about 10 days of work in the fall," Mrs. Harcourt explains. "The classes are set by our adjudicators, who are all members of the provincial Adjudicators of Ontario."

A second roster of volunteers is required for the preparation of the actual festival program detailing who is competing in each class, when and where.

"January 31 is the deadline for entries," explains Mrs. Harcourt. "From those entries, one week to 10 days is taken to prepare the program for printing before the festival at the end

of April."

"Anyone who would like to come aboard would be most welcome," Mrs. Harcourt adds. "There are lots of other areas where we need volunteers, too. We usually have lots of help during the actual festival, but not for the other areas. Perhaps it's because most people aren't aware of the amount of work the festival organization requires."

"It's an open festival," Mrs. Harcourt notes. "They can come from the county and beyond. We have music teachers in Peterborough and Belleville who enter students each year. We have choir classes, for example for church choirs, that draw people."

"An entry can be a choir or an individual soloist," Mrs. Harcourt notes. "It take The 60th anniversary festival will be in Warkworth."

The annual festival is "a real cultural event not quite like anything else for the kids," Mrs. Harcourt notes. "Some have gone on in musical careers. The festival is a good way to try out material and see if it works or not."

The competition is not confined to classical music. With voice, choirs, instrumental and band classes planned, musical offerings include jazz, folk, spiritual and, yes, classical.

"We always have a Festival of Hymns at a church the Sunday before the festival begins," Mrs. Harcourt notes. "Choirs from throughout the county participate. Then, after the festival has ended, we have a Grand Concert. Winners of classes are invited to perform."

The fund-raising committee of the Festival garners funds to provide scholarships for the musicians adjudicators select as winners.

"For our 50th anniversary, we invited people who had gone on in music to return to perform. There have been quite a few.

"For teachers and students, the festival is an opportunity to assess their skills and see how well they are doing, often before they take their exams. For the choirs, it's an opportunity to assess their training and skills. We try to emphasize that they should just do as well as they can. It is not so much a competition as a an opportunity."

Anyone interested in supporting or helping out with the annual Northumberland Festival is asked to contact Ruth Harcourt, President of the Northumberland Music Festival Society, at (905) 372-2505, or in Warkworth, Mary Mitchell at (705) 924-2376.



Ruth Harcourt, President, Northumberland Music Festival

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—Ruth Harcourt