



Wings away

These Brownies from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Acton Brownies advanced to Guides in a special ceremony on Oct. 8. Seen here are (from top, left to right): Amanda Manuel, Stacey West, Anna Cook, Charlotte Mahon, (middle row): Stephanie Taseruk,

Lisa Chumley, Natalie Tullman, Tricia Bailey. (front row): Melanie Adshead, Melissa Toth, Emily Savage, Carrie Johnson. Melanie Jones also flew up to Guides but was unable to be in the picture. (Photo submitted)

1898 church organ now in Belfountain

A church organ dating from 1898 has found its way to Belfountain Village Church from Quebec after six years of painstaking restoration.

It was built by Mason and Hamlin of Boston, Mass operates on an air suction system and has 640 separate brass reeds, vibrating in the air flow to create sound.

The organ was played in public at Belfountain for the first time Sunday (Oct. 18), a day after it arrived from pointe Claire, Quebec.

Glen Widdifield, a member of the church board, told the congregation at evening service that it can look forward to hearing "some wonderful music" from the organ which is nine years older than the Belfountain church.

For several months the church had been studying the options to replace its existing electronic organ made in 1967. Its performance had deteriorated and replacement parts were almost impossible to obtain.

The organ from Quebec was tracked down when Toronto friends of Belfountain congregation members heard it might be for sale.

It has been purchased for \$10,500 from John Knight of Pointe Claire, sound editor of the National Film board in Montreal and the appeal fund for its acquisition has been exceeded by \$2,000.

Mr. Knight, a former concert pianist, is retiring and moving to Victoria, B.C., and said he already had three pianos to move. So, he just can't afford to move the organ too.

Mr. Knight spent the weekend in Belfountain helping to install the organ, made primarily of oak and weighing about 1,000 pounds.

It was originally in Amhurst Sq., Church in Montreal which was turned into a recording studio several years ago and Knight has owned the organ for 15 years.

"I reckon I've spent about 2,000 hours on its restoration in the past six years," he said. "And I'm delighted it has now found a new

home in the Belfountain church."

The organ - one of a kind - produces a near imitation of pipe organ music. Pipe organs cost many thousands of dollars more than the sum paid for the antique Mason and Hamlin organ.

It will be played at the regular 9:30 a.m. Sunday services at Belfountain and also a traditional community Christmas candlelight service scheduled for Dec. 23.

Knight said the Mason and Hamlin, a famous maker of pianos, started producing reed organs about 1860 after an organ maker from a company in Paris, France joined them in the U.S.

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