

Basilica Organ Restoration Details

Saint Patrick's Basilica is preparing to have its three-manual, 35-stop Casavant organ renovated after many years of use. The Basilica's original instrument was installed in 1887 by the Warren Organ Co. but was later expanded, first in 1898, then later, in 1930, by the well-known firm of Casavant Frères.

Our organ needs to correct problems that have accumulated over the past 80 years. These have severely limited its use. Now the organ needs extensive restorative work.

There are many dead notes in various areas on many of the windchests. The console is perhaps the worst off part of the organ, as many pistons no longer work. Many of the "presets" are no longer reliable. These "presets" help the organist create various ensembles of sounds.

Electrical wiring runs throughout the organ. The present wiring, installed in 1930, is a cause for concern for the safety of the Basilica.

Finally, the major restoration of the interior of the Basilica allowed much dust to settle among the pipes and the interior mechanism. The organ has many parts that require leather. Because leather dries out over time, it needs to be replaced. The life of the leather in our organ is being shortened by the construction dust that has entered the piping. This situation requires the removal, cleaning and, in some cases, the repair of each of the 3,000 pipes. These pipes vary in size from 4 inches to 16 feet in height!

We are seeking \$300,000 to complete the work. How can you help us reach our goal? Sponsor the cost of restoring one or more of the 3,000 pipes of the organ at \$100 each. In return for your generous support, your name (or that of someone you wish to honour) will be enrolled in a DONOR MEMORIAL BOOK to be on view in the Basilica's Monsignor Francis French Library.

Be part of the history of Saint Patrick's!

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Saint Patrick's Basilica — ***Organ Fund*** can donate by means of a [credit card](#), or by cheque payable to Saint Patrick's Basilica — ***Organ Fund*** and send your payment to:

Parish Office
281 Nepean Street
OTTAWA, ON K1R 5G2