



Three pre-arranged fixed combination action

Opus 56 is a testament to the Casavant brothers' workmanship. While taking the organ apart, I was amazed how a lot of the methods used to attach the different parts, are still in use in our instruments today. The organ even has 3 fixed combination pedals, which bring in or out stops in a prearranged registration a very advance idea for the time.

When dismantling the instrument, I noticed that the 2 flutes have been moved around in an attempt at getting a 2' sound out of the Swell flute 4, the work was not done properly and since I found the missing 1st octave in the organ, I decided to return the specification to what it was originally in order to preserve the historical value of the instrument.

There are 10 stops, Montre 8', Dulciana 8', Melodia 8', Flute Harmonique 4' on the Great and Principal 8', Salicional 8', Celeste 8', Flute douce 4' and Hautbois 8' (T.C.) on the Swell. The Pedal has 18 notes of Bourdon 16' with octave coupling for note 19 to 30.

All of the action is mechanical, the existing pumping mechanism is still operational and the reservoir is working with the original leather. A blower was installed 1970s. This is why I met many people who told me they use to pump the organ when they were kids.

For the last 3 days of my trip, Tymen from our Toronto crew, came down to assist in the tuning and regulation. Tymen and I left Tuesday afternoon, January 27, leaving behind part of our History. I am confident that opus 56 will remain in place and playable for many years to come.

A short additional note on the Acadian community around Baie Egmont. It was a very interesting experience to meet many of the people from this area, the Galants, Arsenaults, all descendants from the original Acadian settlers from 1812, form a very strong community with their own French newspaper, La Voix Acadienne, and Radio station. There is an all French School in Urbain ville continuing the preservation of the language and traditions of the area. If you go to PEI do not hesitate to drop by the Church and try the organ, you will be well received, I am sure of it!



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Ed. This instrument along with other historical organs of Prince Edward Island can be heard on a fine CD produced by the CBC. Entitled "Canadian Organ Music Historic Organs of Prince Edward Island", it features Organist Alan Reesor who is familiar with all of the instruments on PEI.