

## A NEW LÉTOURNEAU FOR PERTH

St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Barker Road, Subiaco installed a two manual Paul Hufner unit organ in 1954, and this organ has continued to provide for the needs of the church to this time. Situated as it is in a high chamber to the right side of the altar, this organ speaks clearly into the church, albeit with its limited scope of three extended ranks.

The church recently benefited from a large bequest from Miss Nancy Russell as a memorial to her parents, conditions thereof including the provision of a new organ. Father Tom Sutton and the Parish Council saw this as a remarkable opportunity to make a contribution to the Perth organ scene and approached a number of local and overseas builders about replacing the Hufner with a new instrument. Resulting from this process, Orgues Létourneau Limitée of Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, Canada, have been contracted to build a new 17 rank two manual and pedal organ with mechanical key and stop action for St. Andrew's, making this the first Létourneau for Western Australia and joining a growing number of their organs in other states.

Essentially, the instrument will be free-standing, and the church is considering various locations within the sanctuary, some of the alternatives may require additional construction work. All of the locations under consideration will see the organ placed on the church's central axis for excellent tonal projection. In conjunction with the organ project, the church is undertaking significant reworking of the western wall, including new stained glass windows. The organ case will be made from quartersawn white oak and will display the pipes of the Great 8' Open Diapason. One detail that is quite unique for an instrument of this size is the provision of a Swell to Great Suboctave coupler, which should open up the organ to a somewhat broader repertoire.

There is a total of 902 pipes in the instrument and the organ will have a manual compass of 58 notes (c1 to a58) and pedal of 32 notes (c1 to g32). The intermanual couplers to be provided on the instrument are Swell to Great, Swell to Great Suboctave, Great to Pedal and Swell to Pedal. The organ will be fitted with a balanced Swell expression pedal.

The specification of the Létourneau organ will be:

### Great

1.	Open Diapason 8'	58 pipes	70% tin
2.	Chimney Flute 8'	58 pipes	30% tin
3.	Principal 4'	58 pipes	70% tin

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|----|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 4. | Fifteenth 2' / Mixture III-IV | 220 pipes | 70% tin |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|

NOTE: This is a combination stop. Half-draw provides the Fifteenth, full draw provides the mixture (15-19-22).

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|----|-------------------------|----------|---------|
| 5. | Trumpet 8'<br>Tremulant | 58 pipes | 56% tin |
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452 pipes

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#### Swell (enclosed)

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|-----|------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 6.  | Salicional 8'                | 58 pipes  | 70% tin      |
| 7.  | Bourdon 8'                   | 58 pipes  | stopped wood |
| 8.  | Spire Flute 4'               | 58 pipes  | 30% tin      |
| 9.  | Flageolet 2'                 | 58 pipes  | 30% tin      |
| 10. | Cornet II 2-2/3' 12-17       | 116 pipes | 30% tin      |
| 11. | Bassoon-Oboe 8'<br>Tremulant | 58 pipes  | 56% tin      |

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406 pipes

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#### Pedal

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|-----|----------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 12. | Subbass 16'    | 32 pipes | stopped wood                |
| 13. | Octave Bass 8' | 12 pipes | extension of 16'<br>Subbass |

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44 pipes

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The installation of the organ is scheduled to take place in May or June 2006. The church will seek to have the Hufner organ, an important part of the heritage of locally built organs in Western Australia, relocated to another church at that time. The St. Andrew's organ has yet to appear on the Orgues Létourneau Limitée web site, but it is believed to have the opus number 101. Létourneau are in the process of updating their site and the new organ will be listed in the near future. Their site makes interesting browsing, the English language version is available on this address:

<http://www.letourneauorgans.com/indexen.html>

My particular thanks to Father Tom Sutton, Rector of St. Andrew's, and Andrew Forrest, Assistant Artistic Director, Orgues Létourneau Limitée, for providing information for this article. Andrew is also Music Director and Organist at Richelieu Valley United Church in Beloeil, Québec, Canada.

Bruce Duncan  
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