

December 7, 2020

Good afternoon , we represent La jeunesse Choirs.

La Jeunesse has been in existence in Cobourg for over 30 years.

We offer three choirs (junior, training and senior) for children aged 7 to 19.

We also offer a Musical Theatre Intensive option which features some acting and dancing as well as singing.

In a "normal" year, we would have about 40 choristers and we would hold our rehearsals and concerts at Trinity United Church.

We have two part-time staff: our music director, Markus Howard and our accompanist, Debbie Fingas. These two dedicated and highly qualified staff provide our choristers with excellent musical training. Our children develop a life-long love of music, they learn discipline and self-confidence as well as having fun. Many of our choristers have gone on to pursue a career in the performing arts.

On a personal level, I've seen my grand-daughter blossom in La Jeunesse.

The confidence she gained enabled her to audition for and obtain several roles in local theatre productions.

We have many dedicated board members, parents and grand-parents who help with fund-raising. We run bingos, sell chocolates and poinsettias and carry out many other fund-raisers. Unfortunately, this is not enough to cover our operating costs.

So we must charge our choristers a yearly fee for participating in our choirs.

We try hard to keep the fees as low as possible. We offer subsidies for low-income families.

This year has been particularly challenging since we have had to limit our curriculum to on-line activities. Our two staff, Markus and Debbie, have been creative and innovating in finding ways to keep the children engaged.

Nevertheless, our membership is down from previous years.

We also have been limited in our fund-raising activities.

In short, we are struggling to survive!

This year, we are asking the Town of Cobourg for a \$2,000 grant to help us subsidize 2-4 children. We are requesting an additional \$3,000 to help us survive this exceptional year.

We are confident that, with this help, we can continue to serve the needs of Cobourg and Northumberland County families.

We are most grateful for past support from the Town of Cobourg and we hope you will consider our 2020 grant application.

Yours truly,

Denise Raymond, treasurer