



PEMBROKE COMMUNITY CHOIR  
[www.pembrokecommunitychoir.org](http://www.pembrokecommunitychoir.org)

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**August 2018**

### **PEMBROKE COMMUNITY CHOIR WELCOMES NEW VOICES**

Planning for Christmas during a heatwave is a bit disorienting, but that's exactly what the Pembroke Community Choir is doing as it prepares for its upcoming fall season.

Each fall and winter, about 70 to 85 people who enjoy singing, meet every Monday evening to learn new songs and harmonies in preparation for a Christmas and spring concert.

This past season was a special one, since the choir celebrated its Diamond Jubilee—60 years of bringing choral music to Pembroke area audiences. For their two annual concerts, the choir performed a sold-out Celtic Christmas concert and a beautiful wedding-themed spring concert.

Additional highlights were performances at the Cenotaph for Pembroke's annual Parade of Lights; at Community Living; seniors' residences in Pembroke and Renfrew; a Christmas Open House fundraising tour, and at the Champlain Trail Museum's June Strawberry Social fundraiser.



Director Gerald LaRonde says that one of the great things about singing in a choir is that no matter what your ability, there will be another 70 or 80 voices to back you up and make you sound like a professional.

"We are so pleased to have new choir members join every year" said Mr. LaRonde.

"We always need more male voices and have a lot of couples who enjoy this night

out together, singing, learning about music, and meeting new people. We always encourage both new and experienced choristers to try us out".



The practices for the Christmas concert will begin on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. LaRonde has met the challenge for another exceptional season. **“Night of Silence”** will include both sacred and secular pieces that mark the Advent season—a time of spiritual darkness and anticipation. The theme song, **“Night of Silence”**, was written by Daniel Kantor and according to his website, the text was “inspired in part by the northwoods of Wisconsin and the sparkle of freshly fallen snow in the moonlight of a sub-zero winter’s night”. A cooling thought to keep in mind throughout our current tropical temperatures.

The talented Jessica Belanger, singer, music teacher, and director of the Renfrew Children/Youth Chorus, will be the special soprano soloist. Many of the pieces may be new to both choristers and audience alike, but at this hectic and stressful time of year, the performance will be sure to prepare everyone for a quiet and relaxing Christmas season.

The Pembroke Community Choir always welcomes new members of every age and singing ability and there are no auditions to join. If you like to sing, you can try out the choir before making any commitment—just attend any of the first three practices at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 17, or 24 at Wesley Community Church, 210 Renfrew Street in Pembroke.

For more information, visit the choir’s website at [www.pembrokecommunitychoir.org](http://www.pembrokecommunitychoir.org) or contact choir president, Linda Clark at 613-735-6604.



***The Pembroke Community Choir enjoyed a number of special activities in 2018 as they celebrated 60 years—their Diamond Jubilee! After a successful spring concert, many current and former members attended the annual AGM banquet (Photo 1). Part of the choir’s community outreach is performing at area seniors’ residences. Photo 2 shows a dozen choir members getting ready to join other singers at Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew. The choir also collaborated with the Champlain Trail Museum in 2018 – first participating in a Heritage Day in February, and then singing at their annual Strawberry Social fundraiser in June. (Photo 3)***