

MEET SOME MEMBERS OF THE PEMBROKE COMMUNITY CHOIR!

In 2018, the Pembroke Community Choir celebrates 60 years--the Diamond Jubilee--since its formation in 1958. We have approximately 80 members, divided into Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts.

We practice every Monday evening from September to May for our two annual concerts and welcome new members in each session. No audition is required... just a love of music and singing.

Meet just a few of our choir members with "family connections".

Visit our website at
www.pembrokecommunitychoir.org
for more information.

JOAN BOUCHER – Soprano, Chapeau, QC

Singing with the Pembroke Community Choir



simply makes me feel good in every way. It's fun and relaxing and I forget about what might be on my mind for those two hours.

I have sung with choirs for the past 30 years and I look forward to meeting every

Monday night. When I first joined a choir I couldn't read music at all, but now I feel I'm pretty accomplished at reading music. I was a bit apprehensive about joining a new choir (10 years ago!) because I didn't know anyone, but now I have friendships that I cherish. Now I'm very fortunate to have my daughter-in-law Anusha singing beside me and I look forward to every practice because I get to see her. We share the love of *The Beatles* and *Mozart* and have many other similar tastes in music, so singing together is fun.

ANUSHA BOUCHER - Soprano, Pembroke

I moved to Canada in June 2017. As a newcomer who doesn't know very many people in Pembroke, being part of the Pembroke Community Choir gives me the opportunity to meet new people and socialize.

It also helps me to keep up with the musical training that I received during my university

years, and allows me to maintain my singing skills, as singing has always been a part of my life. The best part of it all is that I get to sing alongside my mother-in-law! It gives us the opportunity to bond and share our passion for music.

GEOFF MIDDLETON, Tenor and CAROL RIPLEY, Soprano, Pembroke

For us, joining the choir came from our discovery of each other's love for just singing before we got married in 2017. It seemed our only real opportunity to sing was either at church or in the car where Geoff keeps the 60's tunes coming.



When I discovered Geoff's love for classical music, we considered joining the choir together. Although we were concerned about not being able to read music, we were happy when we saw that the choir's website indicated that there were no auditions and an ability to read music was not necessary--so we decided to go for it.

We love it...we are learning a lot about music. We enjoy the practices every week, but after our first concert we couldn't believe how accomplished and wonderful we felt about performing with the choir. We are meeting new people, and find ourselves becoming quite engaged with the group and its fantastic director Gerald LaRonde.



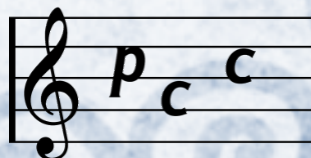
JEFFREY DORAN, Tenor and LOUISE DORAN, Soprano, Petawawa

We have attended several Pembroke Community Choir concerts and have always enjoyed the music. We also noted that the choir members seemed to be having a great time.



When we saw a notice looking for new members for a Celtic Christmas performance we, having Irish roots, were excited to try out the experience. We were not disappointed as the music was wonderful and the members were helpful and welcoming.

Director Gerald LaRonde and accompanist Darlene TerMarsch, as well as the excellent guest musicians, were so talented and professional. We were hooked!



1958 ~ 2018



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SHELLEY HAWKINS - Alto, Pembroke

When I joined the PCC in January 2015, I was delighted by how instantly welcome and at home I was made to feel. It is a fun environment, filled with people who share a common ideology--'singing makes us feel good'. Our concerts are always a wonderful show that the whole community enjoys. It's a fantastic way to meet great people and make lasting friendships.



LYNNE DUNN - Soprano, Pembroke



Singing has always been a feel-better thing for me, and for over 25 years I have sung as a soprano in the Pembroke Community Choir. In the PCC I have sung classical and contemporary music, and Monday night rehearsals always result in a concert that brings a sense of completion and accomplishment. Singing and music help us live healthier, stronger and longer, and I'm glad I have this outlet and opportunity in the Pembroke Community Choir.

JENNY DUMAS - Alto, Pembroke



I love, love belonging to the Pembroke Community Choir. I have made many fine friends there and every practice we learn and laugh a lot while working on a common purpose which is to share music with the community at Christmas and springtime. When I joined I thought I didn't have a voice and I knew I couldn't read music, but I went anyway just to be a part of something so positive. I have never regretted it!



ERIC JUNOP - Tenor, Pembroke



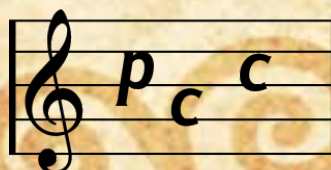
Music that I like and that is played well has always had a soothing effect on me. I got hooked by *The Sound of Music* movie, so when I heard the Pembroke Musical Society was performing it, I joined their chorus and subsequently enjoyed many productions with them. Wanting to continue being part of music, I joined the Pembroke Community Choir when I heard they were performing songs from the Oscars. It was very rewarding being in the middle of such great sounding voices, singing songs from years ago and modern ones too. I especially enjoyed singing Canadian songs for the special Canada's 150th concert.



LINDA CLARK – Soprano, Pembroke



I enjoy being in the Pembroke Community Choir to SING! Not many places these days give you the opportunity to experience different types of music or even just let people sing. PCC does both of those and so much more. I really enjoy the various age groups that are drawn to PCC and the general teamwork that is evident when a difficult concert comes together through sheer group determination. I started group singing with the Ottawa Children's Choir and today I find that the Pembroke Community Choir is a bright spot in the week throughout the year.



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HEATHER LAFROY - Soprano, Petawawa, ON

I absolutely love being in the Pembroke Community Choir. I joined in the fall of 2017.



I always came to concerts and loved them but just never joined because I thought I wasn't a good enough singer. My husband said "Join!"... best advice.

I have also been singing with St. George's Chapel for 25 years. I'm having a marvelous time singing with all these phenomenal singers and musicians. I always look forward to Monday practice nights.



CATHY KENNEDY - Soprano, Pembroke, ON

Singing was always a great passion of mine and, upon retirement, I felt that the Pembroke Community Choir might be a great experience for me.



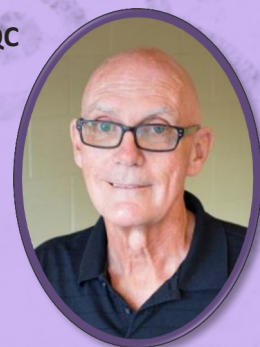
The only other time I had been in choirs was through elementary school. Over the years, I have had several opportunities to sing with my husband in the many bands he has played bass with. I also won first prize in a local contest years ago, for singing a Barbra Streisand song-- "Evergreen"--from the movie *A Star is Born* (the 1976 version).

When I joined the choir this past September 2018, I really didn't know what to expect. I felt a little nervous at first but learned to relax because the members were friendly and very helpful.

I now feel I'm part of a great choir and look forward to Monday night practices and experiencing how it all comes together so beautifully for the concerts.

HENRI PICARD - Tenor, Waltham, QC

I was born and raised in Montreal and lived there until 2007, when my wife Sandra and I moved to Waltham after we retired.



In high school I was involved in all of the plays, sang in the school choir, and played trombone in the school band.

At 15 years old, I was playing trombone and singing in a big band dance ensemble and at 17, I began singing and playing keyboards in local rock bands, which I did off and on, until I was 27 years old.

I had given up on the dream of being a rock star, but on my bucket list at retirement was the desire to sing in a choir again. In 2008 I discovered the Pembroke Community Choir and was amazed by how many good singers there were in a small town like Pembroke, and by the quality and diversity of the performances. The musical direction and leadership was also of top quality.

One of the things that touches my heart is that this choir is a *community* choir--we do not decide who can or cannot sing with us, and there are no auditions. Anyone interested, but wondering if they would be able to sing in our choir, is encouraged to try. If a new member finds it a bit difficult at first, there are always others willing to help until they feel comfortable. Our choir feels like being part of a big family.



LANI GRAHAM - Soprano, Eganville, ON

I joined the PCC in September 2018 and had considered joining for years but worked and lived a distance away. I had attended one concert before, when my grandmother was a member, years ago.



I was actively involved with music when I was younger and in school and really loved it. I have always enjoyed singing, but the prospect of performing in front of audiences was quite daunting and not my strong suit. Singing in a choir, however, is like being on a team. I feel comfortable, as no one can hear me! I have been in choirs before, played in instrumental bands, and been in local musical productions such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The King and I*, and *Anne of Green Gables*, both on stage and in orchestra pits.

I have really enjoyed my time in the choir so far. Music was missing from my life and I needed to find it again. I have found it very challenging and rewarding and have learned so much. I look forward to coming every week and find singing very cathartic. I would highly recommend joining this fine group of people!

