



Spencerville Community Choir 2016
Photo by: Barry Fawcett

SINGING FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S SUPPER

By: Lisa Crandall

As a regularly sold out event, the annual Christmas performance of the Spencerville Community Choir is eagerly awaited, for many, signalling the beginning of the Holiday Season.

In existence for more than 30 years, the Spencerville Choir is a mixed group of men and women of varying ages, who come from as far away as Brockville and Smith Falls, to be part of this musical ensemble. Music Director Sheila Fawcett describes the group as an enthusiastic mix of trained and amateur singers. Newcomers are always welcome. The recruiting call goes out late in the summer and practice begins just after Labour Day. The group meets one night a week until their seasonal concert in December. Then the group disbands

until the following summer, when the cycle begins again with a new theme and a new set of musical pieces to master.

Fawcett has been the choir's music director for the past 24 years. A former teacher and school administrator, she spent many years working with children's school choirs at several different schools. It is her love of music that has kept her enthusiasm and energy high as musical director of the choir over the many years of its existence.

Under her guidance, the group has grown steadily to its current compliment of 50 members. In the early days the group met at the Presbyterian Church in Spencerville, but as their numbers grew, they eventually outgrew the choir stalls, so they moved to the United Church.

Musical accompaniment is provided on the piano by Abraham Te Grotenhuis, and occasionally on the flute by Cheryl Robertson, the Assistant Choir Director.

Written by local author Vicki Cameron, the Choir President, and directed by Fawcett, this year's show is entitled "Bethlehem Bound". Each year the show promises a unique and original blend of traditional as well as non-traditional Christmas music, plus a specially written narrative. This year's show will present the Christmas story from the point of view of the three wise men, who travelled so far to be a part of the Christ child's story.

This year the choir will be donating the proceeds to Food for All, (the South Grenville Food Bank), serving Augusta, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal and Prescott, as well as House of Lazarus Food Bank in Mountain.

The 2017 performances will be held on the first weekend of December, December 3rd and 4th at the United Church on Centre Street in Spencerville. Performances will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday and 7:30 PM on Monday evening. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students (ages 12-18), \$3 for children (ages 6-11) and preschoolers get in free. Tickets are available at the door the day of the performance, but come early because it is a popular event. **LH**