



A timely message to our valued Bluegrass Friends and Relations

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Please be notified: the Annual Membership Drive is under way. It's time to renew your 2016/17 QBBC Membership. Dues are one primary method to raise seed money for some of the many important activities that the club presents for its members and patrons enjoyment.

**FINANCIAL:**

This past year your club suffered a financial set-back - the first in many years. I don't have to tell you all how damaging today's poor economic times are. So, we are taking action to cut costs and increase revenue. As a result, effective immediately...

**Individual Memberships are 10 dollars per person. Family Memberships are 20.00 dollars**

**INCREASE:**

We understand this is a dramatic increase, but it is necessary to continue our services and this is our first increase in many years. Fortunately, we are temporarily offering our Memberships for half that price. Early-Birds pay just five dollars before Thanksgiving – October 10 2016. We want as many people to take advantage of this offer as possible.

**CONTACT:**

Membership Chair: Rose Craig or one of her volunteers. Any Club Director will look after you. Call Rose: 519-376-2423 / Mail Rose: 1300 6<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Apt 402, Owen Sound, ON. N4k 6Z1 Rose will be at Thursday Night Jams to accommodate your needs – before Thanksgiving.

**CCBA VOTING:**

When arranging your membership, please make sure to indicate if you wish to vote in the annual Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards. Every year the Northern Bluegrass Committee distributes ballots to industry leaders, bands, club directors and to club members. We all play a part in electing our next Bluegrass Award Winners. There are some twenty categories from Best Singers to Best Pickers. Please indicate if you wish to receive a ballot. The winners will be announced and the awards handed out at the annual Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards held at Deerhust Resort in Huntsville, ON. - November 25, 26 and 27, 2016. For more information, please see their website: [www.northernbluegrass.com](http://www.northernbluegrass.com)

#### AWARDS:

As you may recall, the QBBC is the sponsor of the Most Promising New Group award at the Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards. The Club donates a goodly amount of money to maintain the trophy, to add new names to the award every year and we have traditionally invited the recipients of that award to open for one of our WinterGrass Concerts in March or April.

#### JAMS:

It was agreed at last Thursday's Executive Meeting, 22SEP2016, a membership will be required from all persons entering our Jams. This includes pickers, singers' and listeners, too. The only exception is, if you belong to another Bluegrass Organization, you may enter without needing to possess our membership, as well. Memberships will be honoured through September 2017.

#### HISTORY:

I'd like to remind all members that back in 2001 when the Club started, individual memberships were 20 dollars per person and continued to be for a good many years afterward. Since then the Club has reduced the fees, but times have changed and we now need your support, once again.

#### AWARENESS:

Dear Members, may I re-assure you all that we will continue to keep you informed and will remain transparent when it comes to our musical activities, our financial records and our plans for sustaining our Club. We will make every effort to contact you. To be effective please ensure your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. Please check and notify us.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Over 100 invitations were sent out by e-mail, facebook, and by old fashioned phone. A big "Thank You" goes to our volunteers for contacting all the club members and for setting up a fine meeting venue. The AGM was held 17SEP2016. Although sparsely attended, a great deal of work was accomplished. This is your seasonal wrap-up meeting, where members have the opportunity to discuss all aspects of club health and to influence plans for our club's future.

#### UP-COMING EVENTS:

Thursday Night Jams: weekly at the Royal Canadian Legion in Owen Sound, 7:30.

Wintergrass Concerts: one each in March and April.

Annual Club Camp-Out: 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July, Meaford Fairgrounds.

#### THANK YOU MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Your assistance is appreciated. We welcome all comments and make every effort to address your concerns. With your support, the Club will continue to maintain our unique brand of musical camaraderie in our community. Thank you.

Mike Matejcic – President    23SEP2016    519-376-4815