

December 13, 2021

Dear Member,

**Merry Christmas from the Nipissing
Parry Sound Music and Jazz Corporation**

We hope this Christmas finds you happy and healthy.

What a year and three-quarters it has been. Our most recent (notice we don't say our last) show was March 10, 2020 with Shawn Saysniuk & Friends. We had 33 music lovers in attendance. We made a profit of \$45, of which we kept half and split the other half 50/50 with the Band and the Legion as is our policy. After that we had to cancel the rest of our shows for which Joanne Sullivan had mostly lined up performances for the rest of the year.

Sadly, such a gathering is still unthinkable today.

We want you to know that your Jazz club is still alive and solvent, and that we are looking forward to the evening when we can resume our live musical events. The Legion is still going and looking forward to having us back.

Presently the number of people that can gather indoors is limited to 25. After subtracting the bartender and band that means we could have at most 20 or 21 attendees. We could resume with this reduced capacity but that would likely mean losses on most of the shows unless we increased the entry fee. We really rely on the bigger shows (50 - 120 people) to provide us with enough profit to offset losses on the smaller shows so we can cover our overhead, the largest single item being liability insurance which is about \$1,000 per year. Such large shows are now not possible. Not only that, but the COVID situation is presently deteriorating again.

The Capitol Centre has booked and promoted shows they then had to cancel or postpone when case counts went up and restrictions on gathering sizes or capacity reductions were imposed. That's a lot of work for nothing. Many bands must be booked ahead, putting us in the impossible position of having to forecast when the pandemic will be over and living with the uncertainty of having to cancel. In fact, this fall we were talking about possibly restarting in January and now case counts in northeastern Ontario are on the rise again and we have a new variant. Now Ontario case counts are consistently over 1,000. A school in Sudbury has been closed. Some health units have reduced the indoor gathering size to 10. An outbreak could happen in our area any time. We do not want to be mentioned on CBC Morning North as the source of an outbreak.

We have always ruled out outdoor shows due to the risk of inclement weather forcing a cancellation.

We are still alive as an organization and looking forward to resuming shows when this pandemic is OVER and it is safe both from a health and financial perspective to do so.

In the meantime, we will not be collecting membership fees.

Rest assured the Jazz Club organization is still active and looking forward to the time when restrictions are lifted and it will be safe to bring you a regular calendar of events again.

Merry Christmas!

Ed Tappenden

Board Chairperson

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