

## **Victory! The CC4CC on November 23, 2024 was a huge success!**

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From

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Date Sunday, 1 December 2024 at 15:18

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To quote the inimitable Countess de Huron: "Well, hot turkey!!"

The Community Cabaret 4 Caring and Camaraderie last Saturday (November 23, 2024) at the Goderich Legion was a wild success.

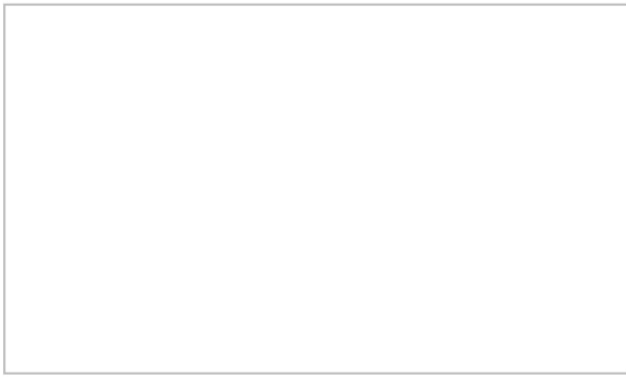
The CC4CC was a highly ambitious project on a shoestring budget with many components operating on two floors of the Legion over the span of about 14 hours. The CC4CC involved a bounteous community luncheon, coffeehouse, cooperative games area, poets, authors, musicians, two extraordinary collaborative art projects, original songs, conversations with community leaders, greetings from the Mayor and Goderich Town Council, comedy improv, a cabaret, drag performances, community booths, a solidarity march around the square, a local vocal diva, a life-size collaborative puzzle, vocalists, guest appearances, audience participation, inspiring speeches, camaraderie with friends from Isaac Newton High School in Uganda via videoconference, sketch comedy, projected works from local artists, a four-scene murder mystery, a reverse auction, multiple sing-alongs, and of course a celebratory community dance. Many thanks to the dozens of kind, committed people involved who made the day such a huge success!

We somehow managed to pull off this miracle with just two organizers, an email address, no funders, and no official bank account. It is all thanks to a massive group of kind-hearted community supporters. We have been busy giving thanks personally and our current count is around 60 individuals, organizations and families who made the CC4CC possible. That is not even counting the dozens of businesses around Goderich and surrounding communities who so kindly displayed our promotional posters.

We had genuinely just hoped to break even on this event. We were very delightfully surprised to discover the CC4CC turned out to be a successful accidental fundraiser! This means we can plan so many smaller scale events possibly for years to come. How wonderful is that? As promised, we've paid for the CC4CC event itself and made a sizeable donation to the Goderich Legion Building Fund. We want to once again thank our dear friends at the Goderich Legion Branch 109 for being such wonderful allies and hosts from beginning to end.

We are already brimming with ideas for how we can continue to support our community and our vision of a world in which all people are free to pursue joyous lives without fear of harassment, cruelty, or violence. We are so looking forward to fostering friendships and solidarity with the many individuals and communities who are impacted by the appearance of hate activity in our midst. We are also lining up educational opportunities with experts in the field so we can better equip ourselves as a community with important knowledge to move forward with. We feel that hate activity is no match for the care and camaraderie we all have toward each other. On Saturday, November 23 we all demonstrated just how powerful the messages of peace, love, and unity truly are.

One of the many magical memories from the day was the Clockwise Ringer of Peace and Progress (CROPP Circle) when we walked around the Square together to the joyous sounds of music from around the world. We met up with our friends at Lakeshore United Church on North Street who delivered into our care their beautiful sign reading "Be Kind / Respect Everyone / Love One Another." That sign formed the backdrop of our evening cabaret extravaganza.



A sign-up sheet was circulated for community members to host the sign on their own front lawn for the weeks and months ahead. We have the sign-up sheet safely in our care and have created a Google Form for anyone in and around the Town of Goderich who would also like to take a turn hosting the sign on their lawn. The sign currently stands proudly at the corner of [REDACTED] in Goderich in the care of some very wonderful supporters. Please find the link to the "sign up" form here:



The day was such a whirlwind of activity that we weren't able to get nearly as many photos and videos as we would have liked. We have created an account where anyone who has photos and/or videos from any aspect of the Community Cabaret 4 Caring and Camaraderie (or the days leading up) can upload them. We are very mindful of discretion and privacy. At this stage we just want to ensure that images and videos from the event can be collected and preserved. It was an historic day worthy of preservation and archiving.

If you have any photos or videos, please consider uploading them to this link (no app or account required):



These files will NOT be automatically shared publicly. The link works for uploading only. We are very mindful that given the nature of our activity and the folks whose viewpoints diverge sharply from our own, we must keep safety and discretion top of mind.

We are committed to prioritizing safety above promotion. That is why nearly all of this work is being conducted through informal friendship networks and away from social media. The additional care and effort required are more than worth it. It also gives us a chance to embrace our connections to one another. At the core of any successful social movement is a strong interwoven fabric of friendships and community bonds. Basically, what Goderich already does best.

This is also why we have been erring on the side of caution when it comes to recognizing and celebrating the many people and organizations who made last Saturday such a huge success. Please know that we are so deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this event. This was billed as a potluck of the community's imagination and that is exactly what it became. The success of the event belongs to the entire community!!

We all deserve recognition and congratulations! The Community Cabaret 4 Caring and Camaraderie was made by and for all of us as a community!! Kudos to all of us!!

We are also planning a lawn sign campaign to coincide with the holiday season. We will be looking at producing little replica lawn signs of Lakeshore United's "Be Kind / Respect Everyone / Love One Another" sign. We'd so love to see these displayed all over Goderich. Stay tuned.

Yours in friendship and solidarity,

Patrick and Amber and friends

No Hate in Huron

P.S. Don't forget to upload your photos and videos from the event. No time like the present!

Here's the link again for uploading your photos and videos:



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