

Barn Kats sing the graces of flattening the curve

Catherine Whitnall

A Kawartha Lakes band has found a way to feed their passion for music and the community at the same time.

Recently, The Barn Kats - Tom Wood, Mike McConnell, Jim Belanger, Andrew Harris, Alan Eaglestad and Andrew Bain - came together to record a light-hearted song inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic.

They each recorded their 'parts' then cobbled the video together, posting it on YouTube and encouraging people to support their local food banks.

"We basically just play to entertain ourselves and others," said Wood of the group that has performed at various local events including the Kinmount Music in the Park series and Lord Simcoe Day at the Fenelon Falls museum. "Up until recently, we would get together Thursday nights, but that all stopped when this pandemic hit and we had to isolate."

A few weeks in, Wood was itching to 'get the band back together'.

He wasn't alone.

"We were looking for a way to keep playing music together without having to play music together," said Wood. "Why not do a video?"

Wood wrote the bones to You're Not Alone, sharing his feelings about the pandemic, particularly the contributions of front-line and essential workers. He then "fired it off" to everyone for their input.

"We went back and forth for a couple weeks. . . . then everyone set themselves up at home to play their parts," said Wood.

Although the song and the video are just for fun, Wood said the band hopes those who give it a view and a listen take the message seriously.

"Just ask yourself, how often do you get to be a hero and save lives by staying home and doing nothing?"

For more on the band visit www.facebook.com/barn.kats.79.