

Colborne Chronicle

■ **FUNDRAISER:** Castleton recording artist remembers the help she received

Help Casselman give back to Cornerstone

CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

COBOURG — Recording artist Cheryl Casselman believes in giving back.

The people at Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre once made a difference for her and her children. On Nov. 30, Casselman will headline an afternoon benefit show for Cornerstone.

Now living happily in Castleton, she has just released her second CD (title: Cheryl Casselman) that she is completely thrilled with — the songs, the people with whom she worked and the people who have since had the pleasure of enjoying the six-song release.

It's a long way from where she was 16 years ago, when she fled an abusive relationship. Fortunately, the people at Cornerstone were there to offer sanctuary and safety.

They are the ones Casselman gives the credit to for helping her and the children turn their lives completely around, even arranging for them to be

“
It was my first year on my own, and I didn't know how I was going to manage. It was pretty amazing.”

Cheryl Casselman

adopted for Christmas by CDCI East students. Finding them on her doorstep lugging three huge bags of gifts was like a miracle, she said.

“It was my first year on my own, and I didn't know how I was going to manage. It was pretty amazing.”

Casselmann always wanted to say thanks, and chose the best way she knew how — with her music.

She is pleased with the support she is seeing for the Nov. 30 fundraiser, which will be a concert and silent auction.

The opening act will be the

Joyful Noise choir, who have members from Bowmanville to Kingston, donating their time to give a 30-minute performance.

Then Casselman takes the stage, with a repertoire that includes material from her recent CD.

Her back-up band has four very talented musicians, including Katelyn Brant and Will Murray, along with Randy Morrison (who was named the Bluegrass Awards top fiddle player several times) and Tim Sanders. Sanders produced her new CD, which was recorded at Studio 3A in Hastings (which is owned by Aiden McGill, who is a perennial favourite at Cobourg's Waterfront Festival).

The silent-auction items include a 43-inch television, though Casselman — eager to make this event bigger than ever — is still looking for members of the community who are willing to contribute other items. Anyone with a donation for this effort can call Cornerstone (905-372-1545) or e-mail Casselman (c.cass@hotmail.com).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seen in the cover shot from her latest CD, Castleton recording artist Cheryl Casselman will headline the Nov. 30 benefit for Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre.

When it's all over, she said, she hopes to raise \$5,000 (topping the \$3,800 she raised last time).

The event runs from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Best Western Cobourg Inn and Convention Centre, and tickets (\$15 each, free for children) are available at Nessie's Gifts and British Fare in Cobourg and Downey's Pharmacy in Colborne (or e-mail

Casselmann at c.cass@hotmail.com).

Casselmann is hoping you'll support her with the show — and has her own message for women who find themselves in the situation she was in 16 years ago: reach out to Cornerstone and get help.

“These women are so sensitive and wonderful,” she said.

“They really should make

that move to help them make a change in their lives.”

cecilia.nasmith@sunmedia.ca



123