

Mr. Stephen Peacock
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Cobourg
55 King St. West
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2

February 2, 2018

Re: Accommodation for the rental of the Concert Hall

Dear Mr. Peacock,

The faculty team in the Journalism Program at Loyalist College is requesting a waiver of the fees associated with the Concert Hall to hold a public meeting regarding the state of local news in West Northumberland. We would like to hold it in April on a Monday or Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The team is working with a group of local journalists, activists and citizens who expressed grave concerns about the future of local news in Northumberland following the sudden closure of Northumberland Today in December. We hope to have a constructive conversation with the public around the state of local news, successes and challenges facing the industry and what potential next steps could be taken to address concerns.

Loyalist College held a similar event in Belleville this past September, which was very successful. Over 100 people gather at the college, including politicians, community leaders and representatives from a host of community organizations, along with many members of the public. All local media outlets were present. There was a very positive exchange of ideas, concerns and comments. We continue to work with the community on developing approaches to strengthen local news coverage and support the news media.

Our goal is to do the same for West Northumberland. An event of such significance to the community should be held in the Concert Hall. We will be inviting the public, as well as contacting the various councils, community groups, service clubs, agencies, non-profits and, most importantly, the public within Northumberland West to join us. We also hope to record the event, as well as stream it live, to ensure we reach out to as many people as possible. We will also be using various tools to engage the public in advance and to follow up after the event.

Please support our efforts by providing a waiver of the fees and the appropriate staff to assist us in setting up the hall both physically and technically to achieve our best results.

The journalism faculty team appreciate your support and we look forward to working with the community as we move forward.

Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Robert Washburn