

Schroeder acknowledged the challenges faced by all charities pleading for the public's help with fundraising efforts.

"It is so tough, and I am so appreciative of all the local businesses and individual donors who continue to support us," she said. "We've relied on those folks for a lot of years, and those relationships really serve us well, because as you know, there are all kinds of other calls for people to donate, and every one of them is a worthy cause."

Schroeder said the list was too long to go through, without fear of missing someone, but there is one group she gave a shout out to.

"Service clubs have been huge over the years - they have contributed a large portion of the donations on Telethon day. We usually make around \$90,000 and at least \$15,000 of that comes from service clubs, so it's a really big contribution."

The money raised at the Telethon goes towards general costs, and usually there is a "wish list" to which any extra money will be applied. This year, the focus is on building an addition to the centre, specifically for The Autism Program (TAP).

"A big chunk of the money every year is always earmarked for, as we say, keeping the lights on. The government money we get doesn't quite meet the needs of the operation of the place, so we always rely on the Telethon funds to help with our day-to-day operations. Anything that we make over and above the operational needs, this year, is going towards a capital project of building a new space for our autism program."

The 2015 Telethon raised \$92,408 - the second-highest total in the fundraiser's four-decade history.

"We are hopeful that we can reach that target again, or even beat it," said Schroeder.

"In order for us to deliver our services in the manner that our parents deserve and our children deserve, and the community has become accustomed to, the Telethon is vital," Crowe said.

"Although we do have a lot of fun, we don't do it just for fun. We do it because we need it and the community has supported us so well."

Entertainment Schedule

(Subject to Change)

12-1 p.m.

Legion Colour Party
Military Wives Choir - 0 Canada
Kunngwe Dancers
Military Wives Choir
Barrie Donaldson
Georgia Strait Big Band
Judy Norbury and Joanna Finch

1-2 p.m.

Bruce and Judy
Azucena Flamenco
Comox Valley Children's Choir
Orna Oksanen
Susie McGregor & Girls

2-3 p.m.

Fiddle Jam
Ryke Davies
Triple Heat Dancers
Just in Time Choir

3-4 p.m.

Guides, Brownies, and
Pathfinders
Aneia Kaiman
Dolyna Ukrainian Dancers
7 Story Circus
Gold Carter

4-5 p.m.

Interceptions
The Cassies
Jim Papp and Mike Johnson
Keisia Cox
Helen Austin

5-6 p.m.

Valley Dance Studio
Peter Bourne
Laure Trinkler Modern Dance
Paul Rodgers and Amanda Usher

6-7 p.m.

Laure Trinkler Highland Dance
Tammy Fassett
Cody Rodgers
Luc Gutfrie and Brodie Dawson

7-8 p.m.

Sue Medley and John Wang
Des Larson
Kenny and Brian
Courteney Elementary Choir