

## A short history of The Salvation Group of Niagara Falls – Nov. 20<sup>st</sup>, 2010

The **Salvation Group** originated here in Niagara Falls on November of 1990 in the basement of the old Salvation Army Citadel at 6812 Lundy's Lane. Its location then was on the South side of Lundy's Lane and West of Corwin Avenue and just to the left of the British Style pub then known as The Liverpool Arms. The entrance to this meeting was by the rear door and those attending would always face a dilemma, turn left to the doors of the A.A. Salvation Group meeting or right to the lure of the entrance to the pub. What a decision we faced! Oddly enough, I never knew anyone that turned to the right to go into that pub. That old citadel and bar has since been demolished and is now the present location of the business known as the "PartSource", an automotive parts specialty store.

There had previously been a group by the name of The Tower Discussion Group that met Saturday evenings on Hagar Street in Niagara Falls back in the 1980's, but it had disbanded, leaving Saturday night without an A.A. meeting place. So, it came to be that a newly sober Great Lakes sailor, Roger S. by name, just out of the treatment center and attending local A.A. meetings regularly, decided that to keep his new found personal sobriety he would form a primarily open speaker A.A. group with a discussion night to be held on the last Saturday of every month and thus would be keeping himself sober and active in A.A. and would fill that void left by the closing of the old Tower Discussion Group. Well, Roger liked his Saturday night viewing of "Hockey Night In Canada" on T.V. so, to make sure he could be home by 9:00 P.M. and to also make Saturday night meetings more tempting to all A.A. hockey fans who wanted both an A.A. meeting and the ability to catch the 9:00 PM viewing of the hockey game, he opted to have the new Salvation Group meeting start at 7:30 P.M. so as to accommodate those sober hockey fans who wanted both a Saturday A.A. meeting and to catch all three periods of the hockey game. At this time there are only two other groups who presently have a start time of 7:30 PM locally and they are both in the Niagara North District.

The first members of this group were Roger S., Rick W., Jim C., Red, and Patty, and later they were joined by Glen H., Tom C. and Tim B. Roger named this new group "The Salvation Group" because he firmly believed his Higher Power led him to A.A. and gave him salvation from his long suffering alcoholism and also, as it was the Salvation Army citadel he thought it only fitting he should choose this particular name for the new group. General Service Office in New York gave their blessing to the new name chosen.

This group continued to hold it's meetings at the Salvation Army citadel until 1993 when, at that time we were forced to relocate because the church wanted their basement back for their own personal functions and so the little Salvation Group was unable to hold regularly scheduled meetings on Saturday nights at that location any longer and quite a few A.A. members were now depending on the Salvation Group having its doors open to them.

Well, Roger once again began a search for a new location and he found the Queensway Free Methodist Church at 4397 Dorchester Street who very kindly allowed this group to hold their Saturday night meetings in their basement.

Roger S., the original group founder is still sober but seldom attends many A.A. meetings

anymore however the group he started continues to grow and thrive. Since the group's inception and membership of about a half dozen we have continually grown and we now list about 24 members as of this date.

There have been ups and downs for the Salvation Group and at one point a number of years ago; we almost closed our doors as we were down to three active members and hardly any people turning out for the meetings. Well, the word went out among all local A.A. groups that we could use some support and our membership and attendance swelled in a short time and thanks to other group members supporting the Salvation Group we have been at this location ever since 1993. This goes to show that we, as thankful sober A.A. members should ALL support other groups by regular attendance at their meetings always remembering where we came from when we started this group and where we are today as a vibrant helpful happy group with it's doors always open on a Saturday night here in Niagara Falls for all who feel the need to attend an A.A. meeting.

**Thanks to all who have attended and supported the Saturday night Niagara Falls Salvation Group for these past 20 years! May the doors here remain open to the sober, sick or suffering alcoholic for many more years to come.**

**Submitted by Glen H.**

NOTE: THE SALVATION GROUP CLOSED ITS DOORS OCTOBER, 2014.