ABRIDGED HISTORY OF THE SOUTH CAYUGA GROUP

After the death of Brian W. on June 17, 2010, Pauline H. was asked to compile a history of the group, using the notebooks, secretary and treasurer's records that had been given to her by Brian in 2008 in an old briefcase. The group had just realized they had lost the last original "active" member of the group.

Traditionally, on the last Tuesday in August, Brian would give an oral history of the group. Shortly before his death in 2010, Brian had asked Pauline if she still had the old briefcase which was still in the group's storage location. Unfortunately, the briefcase was lost when the group moved to our present location when the Community Hall was sold by Haldimand County.

According to the first notebook, South Cayuga started out as a Meeting. It was held at Rainham Centre Community Hall on Kohler Road on May 5, 1992. In addition to an accounting of the meeting's finances, 10 members were listed: Brian W., Dave L., Dave S., Daryl S., Doug G., George H., John W., Marian S., Perri M. and Rick H. There is no written record of when the Meeting was moved to South Cayuga Community Centre. *

Records show that on July 7, 1996, the South Cayuga Meeting was registered with New York as an Open Closed Discussion Group. Brian was elected as GSR and Perri M. as Alternate. The first group meeting was held on August 27, 1996, at 8:00 p.m. Records also mention that in early 2002, a motion was made and carried to introduce a 12&12 Closed Discussion, splitting into two groups when numbers permitted or upon request: one group downstairs with an Open Topic Discussion and one group upstairs with a 12 & 12 Discussion. Groups lists show over 20 active members at that time.

For many years, (again consensus says in 2001), the South Cayuga Group members had a great time cooking and serving at the Fish Fry on Friday night at the Dunnville AA Convention and Camp out which was held the second weekend in September at Byng Conservation Park up until September 2019.

In 2016, after Haldimand County sold the South Cayuga Community Centre a new location was found at the Community Church, 6182 Rainham Road, South Cayuga, where it still meets. In 2020, after the pandemic hit and after the lockdown, the Church allowed access to the large room to a few members who kept the meeting open on Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. The Group name was changed to South Cayuga 12-Step Discussion Group. The Group also held a Zoom Meeting on Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. from May 2020 to August 2021.

In March 2023, a motion was made and carried to move the meeting from Saturday at 6:30 p.m. to Tuesday at 7 p.m. There are currently 12 active members. *I was informed by Gerry W. of the Dunnville Breakfast Group that the South Cayuga Meeting was started in May 1988 by his wife, Sharon W. at the same location at Rainham Centre. He was also a member as well as Gary W.

This information is based on his personal recollection.

Corrected and amended by Pauline H. on August 14, 2023.

********The South Cayuga Group officially closed its doors on July 30, 2024***