

Caring, benevolence strong in Dufferin

By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD-DANBY
Columnist

The Salvation Army has been a presence in Orangeville for more than 100 years, so Pastor Donna Kennedy informed me in a telephone inter-

view. The Thrift Store, run by the S.A., has been collecting goods and re-selling them for about 20 years.

All the money goes to assisting those in need as has always been the function of the S.A. since its world-wide inception in

1865. Their large premises on Broadway invite those who have gently used and quality products to donate them for resale to promote the agenda of the Salvation Army. As Pastor Donna explained, "Dufferin

Social Services send people to us. Our mandate is our ministry in the community. We serve God by serving others."

She said that, although there has been many good items given, there are a higher proportion of damaged goods donated this year, causing many more trips to the dump than usual for the volunteers at the store.

She also explained the problem with accepting toys, in that they have to be clean and unbroken; games need not to have pieces missing.

"At the moment," she said, "we are collecting furniture for a lady who has nothing; this is the sort of thing we do."

Joan, the Thrift Store's manager, is still excited by the donations coming in this year. The Thrift Store takes in furniture, household goods, CDs, DVDs, books and, of course, clothing.

Things should in good condition and clean, for the staff at the store does not have the time or facilities to repair and clean things. Joan said, "The dona-

tions have been excellent this year and there have been lots of people coming to buy."

A couple of doors along is a similar shop, Paws and Claws, which takes in gently used articles for resale to support the Orangeville S.P.C.A. There is another Paws and Claws shop in Shelburne.

The manager there, Renee Holiday, was also effusive about the goods that have been donated this year.

She told me proudly that there about 40 volunteers who work the store in Orangeville and 20 who work the store in Shelburne.

The stores, she was

careful to make clear, are staffed totally by volunteers.

"A lot of our customers love animals - recycling your good quality used things is good for the environment - people throw everything away otherwise," she commented.

She, too, is worried about recycling toys. "We have no way to know, or to spend the time on finding out, which toys have a recall on them because of problems with them. We worry about the possibility of lawsuits over a 10 cent toy."

Back on Broadway, the old cinema, built in 1927, is owned by the Good Friends. They have made a church of it, while maintaining, as far as possible, the original features.

Pastor Kerry, who runs the day to day business of the church, told me about it.

"We love the old building and want to keep it. People will come in where they might not want to go into a building with stained glass windows. There are services every Sunday and a movie once a month. We have about 350 people in our congregation."

The Good Friends also run the Lighthouse in a building two doors along from the cinema, where meals are served every day from Monday to Friday. Not only meals, but fellowship and a comfortable place to sit and talk for a couple of hours every week day are offered as well.

Pastor Kerry explained: "Our mandate is to feed the hungry. One year ago, we felt God was leading us to that. Each one of us has different things to do - we saw a need and knew it was a tremendous undertaking."

He went on to say: "Meeting the needs of

people that aren't wanted, who are lonely with no one to take care of them - we offer not only food but an atmosphere of belonging."

I asked him who came to the Lighthouse lunches. He told me: "The young and the old. Teenagers and seniors come to a place to belong. Every day, I just read some scriptures, something practical - how can you use God's word to change things?"

People volunteer to cook and clean up. The local super markets donate food and companies and individuals donate money to support the meals. In the summer months, the local farmers bring their produce to help out.

"We are an evangelical church," Pastor Kerry agreed.

"We also hold classes for addiction - the 12 steps for 'born to be free' from addiction. Our courses are a little different from the AA meetings because not everyone is comfortable with speaking and confessing in front of others."

Pastor Kelly is the assistant pastor to Pastor Rod Hempree, whose time is mainly preoccupied with TV's "Quick Study", a series of half hour programs, also on the internet, of walks through the Bible.

Pastor Rod came to this area from the USA more than 25 years ago and originally started with Teen Ranch.

"On Sunday evenings, we also hold a prayer meeting at the Lighthouse," Pastor Kerry told me. "We get together between 8 and 9 p.m. Everyone is welcomed." Everyone is welcomed. As many people as possible are assisted. You can hardly do better than that. It seems the spirit of Scrooge does not live in Orangeville.

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Dufferin Supporting People With Disabilities

Hi, I'm Ann Somerville

I am married to Chuck and we have two kids, Stephanie and Aaron. I obtained my Certified General Accountant (CGA) designation in 1989. I began my career in the field of public accounting. Most of the audits I worked on were in the non-profit field. I have always worked in social services and I worked for many years in long-term care. I have always been more interested in the area of non-profit. When the opportunity at Community Living Dufferin became available, I was very interested. I have always had an interest in the field of learning disabilities because I believe there is a strong need for more support in the school system for children with disabilities. When I met the staff at CLD it certainly seemed like a very close team environment. The people were very friendly and it appeared that they would be very easy to work with. That is how I became the current Director of Finance & Business Services with CLD. The people we support often drop by my office. Some of them like to carry my briefcase to my office and chat while I am opening my door. Mark always tells me how the Vancouver Canucks are doing. He is a Maple Leaf fan. Ed always brings his pictures of all the different events he goes to & his trips. My biggest challenge, as with any non-profit organization is being able to manage within my budget because there are only so many dollars to operate with. Generally the bulk of your costs are staffing so you must always be aware of your costs and budget. I have an excellent accounting and management staff that assist me in that process. CLD's opportunity for professional development is one of the greatest in any organization that I have worked. I have taken several courses since I have been here. I am a member of the Community Living Finance Group; I also sit on the Southwest Region Committee for the Ontario Partnership on Aging & Developmental Disabilities. My previous work experience combined with my association with developmental disabilities provided a good link for the OPADD committee. CLD is a wonderful home for the people we support & it is a wonderful place to work and grow. I am really looking forward to moving to our new building. Our Building Dreams Together project has been a wonderful experience for all of us and we are very excited about the support that we have received from the federal government & the community.



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