

# The Vincentimes

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## North of 60 Experience

The Windsor-Essex Central Council SSVP have had an experience that all members are proud of and at the same time humbled. Most of us in Southern Ontario have heard of this project. It's an accomplishment that lets our fellow Canadians of the North know we can understand their plight of global warming. Because of this phenomenon their fishing and hunting for a livelihood has slowly been fading away.

Our Council from Windsor-Essex have twinned with the Gjoa Haven in Nunavut. The natives call it "Joe Haven" or "The G.H." This little village, just over 1200 citizens, is as far north as Los Angeles is west.

We start shortly after New Year's and solicit non-perishable foods for our northern brothers and sisters. We store these products in our warehouse until late June or early July. The Ontario Project Management supplies us with a sea container. We transfer the cargo to the container and it is trucked to the docks in Montreal. From there it is loaded on a ship and sailed to "Joe Haven".



In "Joe Haven" it is separated evenly into easily distributing parcels. These are given to the needy Inuit population.

We in southern Ontario are very thankful to the contributing councils, businesses, institutions and individuals.

To show how thankful these fellow Canadians are, we were blessed with a visit from the pastor of three parishes in and around this area of Nunavut. The Reverend father is Fr. Lukasz Zajak, an Oblate of Mary Immaculate Order. He was born in Poland but has dedicated the last five years to his flock in the north.



He arrived at the Windsor Airport Friday the 6th of July and was taken to see our facilities on Prince Road in Windsor. Saturday, there was an executive meeting and Father Lukasz was introduced. This was followed by a coffee, donut meet and greet session. Quite a few Windsor-Essex Vincentians accepted the invitation.

Saturday evening the family of Anita Gibb, Chair of the North of 60 project for Windsor-Essex, was privileged to hear Mass from her kitchen table closing with a beautiful family blessing for her family and her Vincentian family.



Sunday July 8th Father Lukasz was dropped back off at the Windsor Airport to make his way back to his northern home, leaving a true feeling of thanks and love between two Canadian communities.

A few words to describe Father Lukasz Zajac is holy, loving, thankful and dynamic. He will be a friend for life.

Anita Gibb  
Chair of North of 60 Program  
Windsor-Essex Central Council

# The Summer of 2018

The summer heat at times was unbearable but nothing stopped the progress of our North of 60 Vincen-tians.

Food items were gathered, sea containers stuffed, then loaded and transported to the port in Montreal. We sent 6 sea containers and 10 crates of food to the North. Every-thing was able to make the second voyage allowing the communities the chance to unload and store before a full winter sets in. A bit of winter will be present but it will not deter our Inuit sisters and brothers.

This August, I was able to attend a meeting in Winnipeg with Most Reverend Bishop Anthony Krotki, Nunavut community elders, their youth representatives, along with their spiritual leaders, the sisters and priests for their communities. It was indeed an impactful experience. To listen to their expression of faith, their value in their Catholic church, its teachings, to rejoice in song and ultimately their love of one another regardless of the distance between their communities ... I was blessed and reduced to gela-tine.



My role there was to show them **ALL YOUR HARD WORK!** I showed all our 2018 summer pictures ... the oos and giggles were elating. My Inuktitut translator kept repeating “that Vincen-tians were not paid” but I had to finally correct him because my reward is their smiles, their hugs, and being in their homes when I visit.

Part of the meeting was also to meet new communities and their leaders. From previous meetings I met both Father Quang of Chester-field and Father Daniel of Pond Inlet, but I had an inspiring oppor-tunity to meet Titus and Joana from Pond Inlet. We began to openly

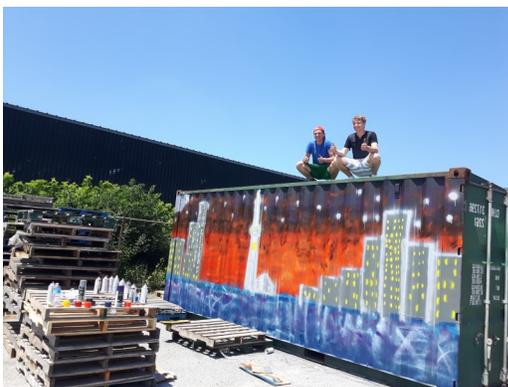
speak and share the difficulties within their communities. As I con-tinue to learn of their difficulties, and they learn what must be in place for SSVp to reach out to help them, a plan will hopefully come together for each of these hamlets.

Sisters and brothers I embrace all of you too. Your assistance through the adoption of a community, your support through gathering food items and your most valued pass ups to ONRC North of 60 is the back bone of all this truly miracu-lous work. Thank you ... Thank you!

Should you be questioning if there is a role your council or conference could join in on ... **CALL - EMAIL ME ...** I will scurry out to meet you, listen and share so much more on North of 60.

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

God Bless,  
Pegg Leroux  
North of 60  
[pegg@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:pegg@ssvp.on.ca)



St. Catharines beautifully painted sea containers

# Whale Cove North of 60 Project

In 2017, St. Raphael Conference of Burlington adopted Whale Cove, a small community of approximately 400 people situated on the west coast of Hudson Bay. That year, we supplied the Sisters with 72 boxes of snacks that they had requested for the children after school.

This year, our goal was to support 25 families for a year. We needed 300 of each item that they requested. We were able to fill a 20 foot sea container with non perishable foods, toiletries, fabric, sewing machines and tools.

Our parishioners, St. Anne, St. Paul and St. Raphael Schools, a Corporation from Leamington, as well as SSVP Brantford and Ardent Mills generously contributed food and monetary donations to help fill the container. St. Anne School collected over 500 boxes of cereal, St. Raphael

el 302 boxes of Kraft Dinner, St. Paul School 300 granola bars, Ardent Mills 300 kg. of flour, St. Raphael Parishioners 300 jars of jam, cookies and crackers. SSVP Brantford collected over 300 each of the following items: shampoo, conditioner, sugar, pasta and pasta sauce.

St. Anne's grade seven students with their art teacher spent one morning painting the side and end of the container with whales. It was spectacular.

The container left Burlington July 10th and should arrive in Whale Cove the second week of September. The approximate value of goods was \$16,000.

One of the problems we encountered was shrink wrapping the skids, weighing them and then

loading them into the container. We will address these issues in the coming year.

We can't thank the people enough for their support with this most rewarding project. Our Conference looks forward to being able to support Whale Cove again in 2019.

Margaret LaFontaine  
President  
SSVP St. Raphael Conference



## St. Catharines Helps Out

The North of 60 Project has truly been a labour of love. From the very beginning, our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul conferences were very excited to be able to help our friends in the North. This year St. Catharines Central Council along with twenty conferences was able to fill two sea containers. Each conference was assigned certain food items to collect. We were fortunate to have other community groups and organizations join us in our efforts: Sts. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church; St. John the Theologian Ukrainian Catholic Church; St. Francis Xavier Conference, Stoney Creek Ont.; NTEC (Niagara Training and Employment Agency); Mainstream; Catholic Women's League; St. Mary of the Assumption

Knights of Columbus; Catholic elementary schools; St. Mary of the Assumption's knitting group; and the Warehouse of Hope.

We were also blessed to have received help from local businesses: Bird's Moving and Storage; E.D. Smith; Post; Crayola; Hilroy; Home Hardware (Grantham Plaza location); Mark's No Frills; and generous private donations. This year we were able to add hockey equipment, shelving, laptops and penny sale items.

The City of St. Catharines kindly provided pins for Fr. Daniel to hand out, St. Ann's Youth Group in Fenwick provided pen pal letters and St. Theresa's school provided greeting cards. We created a binder with

information about a number of our churches and conferences and the areas in which we reside so that our friends may have some knowledge about us. Students from St. Francis High took the time to paint bright and meaningful murals on the sea containers.

From the beginning to the end we thoroughly enjoyed working as a team to provide items that will benefit the people of Naujaat.

Shelley Gilbert,  
St. Catharines Central Council  
President

Louise Librock,  
St. Catharines Particular Council  
President

**SOCIETY OF  
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**ONTARIO REGIONAL  
COUNCIL**



**Visit us on the web**

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## The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

### Mission:

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is: To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

### Values:

The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians, we:

See Christ in anyone who suffers;  
Come together as a family;  
Have personal contact with the poor;  
Help in all possible ways.

## Upcoming Dates

**January 15, 2019** — Deadline for newsletter submissions (please note: we cannot guarantee all submissions will make the next issue, but will do our best to include in upcoming issues)

**January 31, 2019** — Annual Reports due from Conferences. Pass report up to Particular Council.

**February 28, 2019** — Annual Reports due from Particular Councils. Pass report up to Central Council or Regional.

**March 20, 2019** — Annual Reports due from Central Councils. Pass report up to Regional.

**April 12-13, 2019** — Ontario Regional Council Annual General Members Meeting (aka the Spring Meeting). Hosted by the Peterborough Particular Council. For more information, please check your email and visit [www.ssvp.on.ca](http://www.ssvp.on.ca)

## Notice of Passings

We would like to recognize and remember the following Vincentians who have passed.  
They blessed so many with their lives.

June 9, 2018: Stephen Charles Edward, St. Mary Star of the Sea

August 10, 2018: Gerald Francis Fagan, St. Catherine of Siena, Mississauga

August 10, 2018: Mary Hutchinson, St. Raphael, Burlington