

Our Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

Fall 2012

Help for Attawapiskat

When I heard that 22 trailers were being sent to Attawapiskat to house families living in squalor I was relieved to hear that the government was doing something to help this Northern community. My question then was were these trailers furnished? I set out to find out and the next day on CBC radio I heard that True North Aid, a non-profit organization based in Ottawa, was fundraising \$80,000 to furnish them. I immediately contacted them to get information then sent off an email to Jim Paddon to see if we could help. With his approval I went to our parish priest, Fr. Michael Williams of St. Kevin's parish in Val Caron, who was more than willing to endorse our SSVP appeal. I spoke to all the masses and the response was amazing! Each home cost \$3,900 to furnish, the parish raised \$4,000, St. Kevin's conference added to that and from

there the amount just kept increasing. Donations from Ontario SSVP, Southern Ontario conferences, etc have helped us reach a donation of \$34,000 dollars.

True North Aid have been extremely excited and grateful to work with SSVP on this project. Jim, our Ontario president met with George Howarth, a True North Representative, a few times and hopefully we will be able to continue to help our friends in the Northern Native Communities, who continue to find themselves in a state of poverty.

Thank you to all who supported this effort

Yours in Christ,
Michelle Jenkinson.
St. Kevin's Conference
Val Caron, Ontario



True North Aid, a non profit organization in Ottawa, set an \$80,000 fundraising goal to furnish trailers



Thanks to Michelle Jenkinson's initiative, SSVP raised \$34,000 to help in Attawapiskat

Inside this issue:

<i>Blessed Sacrament</i>	2
<i>BAM!</i>	2
<i>President's Pen</i>	2
<i>Halifax AGA</i>	3
<i>Annual Reporting</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4
<i>Name Our Newsletter</i>	4

“Light of the World” Retreat

Dear Brother and Sister Vincentians, In the “busyness” of our lives, it is imperative that we take some time to experience stillness, reflection, and relaxation in order to hear the soft and gentle voice of God.

We invite you to attend the annual Vincentian retreat at Holy Family Retreat House at Oxley, Ontario (Friday, September 14-Sunday, September 16). Make a decision **now** to attend this retreat and experience new life, new energy, and a new commitment to help you

become an even better Vincentian. Bring back your experience to your local conference so that all may share in the graces of this retreat.

The cost is only \$155 per person for the weekend. A \$50 deposit is requested by August 31st. Phone 519-738-6136 for more information and to register.

Register early to assure a place.

Sincerely,
Janine Rocheleau snjm
Chair, Windsor/Essex Spirituality Committee

Blessed Sacrament

I had to share this with you...

As sad as it is that Blessed Sacrament in Windsor is closing, I was thrilled to find out it was sold to Saint Vincent de Paul in Windsor for \$1.

This is where Mike and I first found our passion to serve the less fortunate. Mike and I, along with about 12 other people including Father Joe Langlois each month opened the doors to invite people to come in for hot soup which we made, along with fresh Steimer Donuts and coffee. Following that they then would go into the



Bishop Fabbro hands Pam Baski the keys to Blessed Sacrament, Sunday, July 1, 2012

larger hall and receive bags of groceries and were able to go along rows of tables of clothes and take what was needed.

Mike, Father Joe and about 2 or 3 others rented a BIG truck each month and went around to the various grocery stores where they got the best deals and loaded up the truck with groceries that they then went back and sorted in preparation for the day. That was some 26 years ago before Mike and I moved to London with our

children.

I also got the opportunity to call and speak to Father Joe. (I have kept in touch with him over the years once we moved to London). He was pleased to hear that Mike and I have remained passionate in what we do. I look forward to my next trip to Windsor when I will get to visit him in his new apartment. This news made my day and really wanted to share with you... enjoy [the article](http://blogs.windsorstar.com/2012/07/01/church-closing-opens-new-chapter-for-building/) - <http://blogs.windsorstar.com/2012/07/01/church-closing-opens-new-chapter-for-building/>

"My heart is so filled with joy today"
God Bless,
Becky Ollett,
Mary Immaculate Conference
London

ONRC First Annual BAM!

The origin of "BAM" happened during our youth ONRC meeting in May 2012 at London's St Louise de Marillac Conference at Holy Family Parish. The group was trying to come up with a cool name for an annual event for all youth in Ontario. We came up with "BAM", Big Awesome Meeting. So on September 28 - 29, 2012 a retreat to include all youth involved in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul from Ontario and other parts of Canada will take place for the first time

in London, Ontario. All youth from any conference is invited to participate in this fun filled weekend. There will be games, workshops, spiritual enrichment, music and other activities to help all those who are called to this ministry of serving those in need. All food will be included and T-

Shirts for everyone! Come out, make new friends and share with each other the love we have for the work we do in our communities.

Registration (due Sept 14th) is only \$20 for the weekend. For further information please contact: sarah.ssvp@bell.net at the ONRC office

*Big Awesome Meeting
September 28-29 2012
Holy Family Parish, London*

President's Pen

I'm pleased to see the first edition of this quarterly newsletter and would like to thank everyone who has been part of this special work.

I'd also like to take this time to sincerely thank all Vincentians for their dedication and years of service. I'd also like all to challenge our membership (myself included) to place our Vincentian spirituality as

the most important part of what we do. Please, always remain open to new ideas and ways of serving in the poor.

If our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, had never responded to the challenges presented to him, we would likely not be doing our current works of charity and justice today.



Jim Paddon, ONRC President

Halifax AGA

As a member of St. Peter's Conference, Goderich I wish to share my experience in, and the importance of, attending the AGA in Halifax, 2012.

From the moment we landed in Halifax to our flight home we had a wonderful experience with many unforgettable memories.

We met many people who are a true inspiration and we felt very humbled in the works of charity that is carried out in Halifax. The tours of the St. Vincent de Paul programs in Halifax, Hope Cottage and Hand in Hand Store showed us the dedication of many wonderful people. At the Hand in Hand Store we were able to share with the manager some ideas that work in Goderich that may increase their revenue.



Halifax is a beautiful city, with beautiful people

The spirituality was most welcomed by all and included: Masses, Rosaries, keynote speaker Sister Mary Poole from the Sisters of Charity and Sister Janine Rocheleau. It reaffirms the importance of God and religion in your life.

The workshops were very diversified and informative – in one of the workshops we squeezed over 100 people into a classroom.

The evening functions were a chance to relax, have fun, renew old friendships and make new ones. The down-east hospitality and flavour was enjoyed by all.

The reason it is important to attend AGA's is to obtain and share invaluable knowledge. It is heart-warming to know that others share a common interest. We get to meet

and see the leaders and are able to put a face with a name. It is a chance to experience the broader picture of what is happening out of our own area. We know we are not alone or unique with the clients we come in contact with. There is much need right across Canada/World. Along with the AGA, the Regional meetings are held in different areas to give everyone a chance to attend. If someone in a specific area has a problem or concern, it can be discussed and a solution can be found. We also get to hear what our executive is doing on behalf of us and the Society. I also feel it is very important that if a Conference/Council is paying for members to attend the AGA that they attend/participate in all programs scheduled.

Plan to attend in 2013 – you won't be disappointed.

Anne Elliott

Treasurer, St. Peter's Conference, Goderich

Annual Reporting Process

From the conference level up to national, we all collect and submit our annual statistics for program activities and finances. For some the process is straight forward; while others find it complex and confusing.

We are working on developing some sample forms, not to replace the ones required by national, but to create easier tracking methods.

We encourage each conference to establish their own way to document the services provided, while maintaining consistency and accuracy of what we all report and how. There will be a short presentation



at the AGA in Peterborough (Sat. Sept. 8th 2012) to further discuss the reporting process. We wish to

thank everyone who submitted their feedback form; your input is helping shape this process.

Why do we do this?

Statistics help us plan.

They help us see if people are struggling more this year than last, or if things

are improving for those we serve.

They can make it easier to secure donations, obtain grants to help run our programs. The reporting process can help us see the work we do.

This year, we learned about some of the unique services offered in other communities. We have already approached one council to write about their special service for the second issue of Our Newsletter.

Next Regional AGA:

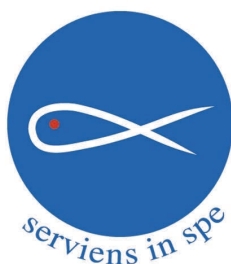
Saturday, September 8, 2012

Peterborough

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

PO Box 20069
Chatham, ON
N7L 5K6

E-mail: secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca
E-mail: administrativeasst.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca



Visit us on the web

www.ssvp.on.ca

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 Events

Anniversaries

Happy 140th Anniversary to Church of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph! This conference was established in 1872. Many blessings and much appreciation for a dedicated community.

Is your council or conference celebrating an anniversary? Let us know and we will mention your accomplishments in the next issue. Email: sarah.ssvp@bell.net

Friday, Sept 7th 2012 - Executive Meeting, Peterborough

Saturday, Sept 8th 2012 - Regional Annual General Meeting, Peterborough

Sept 14th-16th, 2012 - Light of the World Retreat, 121 Victoria St, RR#1, Harrow, ON. Phone: 519-738-6136. Cost \$155 Register by August 31, 2012

Sept 28th-29th, 2012 - BAM!, London Cost is \$20. Register by Sept 14th. Contact sarah.ssvp@bell.net for more info and to register.

Oct 13th 2012 - 7pm, Cindy Miller at the Venue, Peterborough. Go to www.ssvp.on.ca for more info

Name Our Newsletter

You have just read our first newsletter, dedicated to providing you with news and events across Ontario. We intend to issue four editions a year. Please send us your comments, suggestions and ideas for future articles and insertions, to Sarah Davidson (sarah.ssvp@bell.net) Because this newsletter belongs to you, we want your help in naming "our" newsletter. Send us the name you think would suit this newsletter by September 21 to Sarah at sarah.ssvp@bell.net. We will

pick the top four names from those sent in, and then hold a run-off by email voting, sent to all Ontario SSVP members.

Please reply to this email with your vote for your favourite name by October 19. We will announce the winning name in the next edition of "Our" Newsletter, to be issued by the second week of December. Thanks and regards, your editors, Mary, Geraldine and Sarah