

Lori Stewart

She lives in Stratford and is married to her husband Doug. They have 2 daughters and love travelling together. She is retired, after a 40-year career in hospital support services.

Lori has been a Vincentian at St. Joseph's for 9 years and served as president from 2017 to 2023.

In this role, she has led and have overseen a group of approximately 25 volunteers to provide a very well-stocked weekly foodbank, a Christmas outreach program, Summer Camp sponsorship program, monthly community meals, winter coats for children, and sock, hats, and personal hygiene products for adults. She and Doug have also visited our Twinned Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Grenada, bringing copious quantities of donated item for their use.

She sees firsthand the importance of the work conducted by SSVP conferences and is completely committed to our mission. She is known as a "hands-on" type of leader and volunteer, and she would try to bring this perspective to the discussion and decision of the board of directors. In doing this, she would hope that our decisions will always be helpful in practical ways to the councils we serve.

She believes some of the main priorities listed below for the Ontario Regional Council are.

1. Assisting all councils in maintaining and attracting well-trained and effective volunteers. This is important in these times of aging volunteers and declining numbers of younger people stepping forward as volunteers.
2. Ensuring strong communications amongst the various levels within the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. This is important to ensure that all Vincentians, and especially Council Presidents know what is expected and what help is available from Ontario Reegionaland National Councils.
3. And finally seeking ways to address needs that are increasing amongst the poor in our communities. This is important because the serious challenges facing marginalized Canadians today (e.g.: homelessness, addictions, mental health struggles) are new to SSVP councils and conferences.

She hopes to gain a broader perspective about the needs of SSVP councils and conferences , especially isolated conferences , and learn new ways of supporting them.

She is hopeful in receiving joy and personal satisfaction by continuing to serve.