

Thursday, June-02-16

Attention: Virginia Ridley, Councillor Ward 10

The Salvation Army is commissioning their new officers/clergy in London the weekend of June 24 – 26. This is being held at the London Convention Centre. These men and women will become part of a group of 766 serving in the Salvation Army throughout Canada.

This faith based organization has been meeting the practical needs of Londoners for generations (providing shelter for the homeless, feeding the hungry and programs for men and women with addictions). Their foundation is based on Biblical principals and the teaching of Jesus Christ.

The Salvation Army:

- first met in London in 1882

- started social work programs in prison in Toronto in 1890

- were instrumental in starting the first parole program for prisoners in Canada.

The Salvation Army is currently the largest non-governmental direct provider of social services in Canada serving over 1.85 million people per year.

Their founder William Booth said:

“While women weep as they do now,
I’ll fight
While men (and women) go to prison , in and out and in and out, as they do now,
I’ll fight
While there is a drunkard left,
I’ll fight.
While there is a poor lost girl upon the streets,
I’ll fight
While there remains one dark soul without the light of God,
I’ll fight. I’ll fight to the very end.”

This was a quote from over 100 years ago and yet we continue to deal with all of these issues in London today. It’s a good thing the Salvation Army is still here.

In view of the fact that the city has agreed to recognize the LGBT community by painting rainbow colours at intersections in the city, I would ask that the city paint the Salvation Army colours (Yellow Red and Blue) at the intersection of Horton and Wellington Streets near the Centre of Hope.

This would be a fitting recognition of an organization that has done so much practically and spiritually in London for so many decades.

Although the time is short, it would be wonderful if this could be done in time for the Commissioning weekend.

I am submitting this as a proud citizen of London although I am not a member of the Salvation Army.

Ben Miller
774 Notre Dame Dr.
London, ON N6J3B8