

**THE SALVATION ARMY WOODROFFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
IN BARRHAVEN**

**Update Program Proposal Executive Summary
October 23, 2009**

Executive Summary

The Salvation Army Woodroffe Community Church had many discussions about relocation over the past decade. In 2004, the Corps Officer presented three options to the congregation: relocate, renovate or church plant. The decision was to remain at the same location and build on existing ministries.

However, after that time, concerns emerged about the property, the functionality of the building design, and, more importantly, about the relevance of our outreach ministry in that particularly community. It became evident after extensive discussion and surveys, that there was an emerging voice for reinventing Woodroffe as a more outward looking church in a new, growing community. At a congregational meeting on January 28, 2007, the Corps Officer announced the Mission Board decision that we would relocate.

In May, 2007, a Relocation Steering Committee (RSC) was convened with membership including experience and expertise in, and commitment to addressing issues of finance, fundraising, property search, construction, program development, communication and, of course, prayer support. By November 2007, extensive consultations resulted in eight specific recommendations to move forward on all fronts including preliminary property search; program development; leadership development, and development of a financial plan.

This report was taken to the congregation on December 2, 2007. The congregation confirmed the decision to relocate. RSC developed a preliminary Program Proposal to discuss with THQ consultants and DHQ personnel in February and March 2008. Mission Board committed to the development and implementation of a purposeful plan for integrating ministry and for strengthening leadership.

In June 2008, it was decided that the most appropriate location for a strong, contemporary Army presence is Barrhaven. This is seen as a phased process; that is, sell the current property, lease space in a school or other suitable building while engaging the community, purchase property and begin building within five years. There is no plan for an extravagant facility. Rather, Woodroffe wants to be known as a community center of choice for residents who want to explore their spirituality, access personal and practical support and contribute their strengths and experience.

Team Barrhaven was established to begin community conversation with residents, churches, agencies and businesses in Barrhaven. Over the 2008/09 school year, this work was supported by nursing students from University of Ottawa/Algonquin College as one of their community projects. The results of this work have informed the decision to plan a youth initiative in Barrhaven. The Administrator of Seniors' Ministries has also made contacts in Barrhaven and started a monthly activity morning there in March 2009.

After a meeting with the Divisional Commander and the Area Commander in January, an announcement was made to the congregation that the Sunday morning worship service in Barrhaven would be on May 3, 2009. Since then, space in a school has been leased for Sunday morning worship and the program/ministry leaders are developing a more focused, integrated program.

A communication plan was developed to alleviate the concerns of some people by letting them know that DHQ will be supporting a worship service on Sunday mornings at the current location, is prepared to let musical practices and units meetings continue until the end of June and has agreed to allow the Sunshine Club, Artisans and SLAM/Chill continue meeting in the building with a hiatus during renovations. A brief update was distributed on February 15, 2009.

On March 8, 2009, a congregational meeting was held with Captain Downey moderating an RSC update and a DHQ update. Approximately 30 members of the Bells Corners congregation were welcomed. A full Question and Answer sheet was distributed to keep communication as open as possible. This information sheet will be continually updated and posted on the bulletin board and web site. There was ample opportunity for questions and concerns to be raised both at the end of the meeting and later after lunch. The few questions were related to the Woodroffe site and DHQ plans for program and finances. Most of the congregation appears eager to move forward in faith that the way has been prepared for us.

May 3, 2009, the first Sunday meeting in Barrhaven was a celebratory service. The congregation had achieved a milestone. Since DHQ has taken over the site at 820 Woodroffe and is transferring to the Woodroffe congregation the appraised value of the property to provide an account for purchase of land and, in time, a contribution toward construction costs.

RSC has undertaken a more serious search for property now and, upon acceptance of this Proposal, will be negotiating with vendors for a suitable site.

The congregation is stabilizing while awaiting word on the situation with a corps officer. A park program for children was held on four Sundays during the summer. Congregational volunteers helped at community events. CCM and a Bible Study Group are now visiting and holding activities in three seniors' residences in Barrhaven. The regular program schedule has now started with musical practices taking place in a nearby church and small group gatherings in homes. The congregation is now primed for more purposeful outreach into the Barrhaven community.