

# The Salvation Army Celebrates Hope in The City

by Jane Barry

As spring unfolds, it is a time for renewal and hope. The Salvation Army (TSA) has been offering hope and support in Greater Saint John for over a century. It is renaming many of its local facilities, incorporating hope in their ministries. It exemplifies the true spirit of giving to others locally and in other Maritime Ministry Units. Last year, many gathered in King's Square to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the arrival of The Salvation Army in our community. Major Stan Folkins, Area Commander, Maritime Division and Merritt Keith, Chairman of TSA's local Advisory Board are extending an invitation for a unique luncheon, "Hope in The City" Tuesday, April 26, noon, at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre. Special guests of honour will be Commissioners William and Marilyn Francis, Territorial Leaders, Canada and Bermuda Territory, who are based in Toronto. " We would like to personally invite our community to join us for this very special event" says Keith.



Capt. Darren Wiseman, Community Ministries director of The Salvation Army, Saint John, and Andrew Wilson, volunteer Emergency and Disaster Services co-ordinator for TSA's Maritime Division, invite the community to attend the first Hope in The City luncheon April 26 at noon at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre. Photo: Jane Barry/For The Telegraph-Journal

"Our new Community Response Vehicle / Mobile Kitchen Unit will be unveiled and dedicated that day" he adds. Andrew Wilson is the volunteer Emergency and Disaster Services Coordinator for TSA's Maritime Division, based in Halifax. He explains that with only one such vehicle in Nova Scotia in the past there were times when difficult choices had to be made between provinces and emergency needs. The shiny new vehicle, to be on display the day of the luncheon, will be based in Saint John. Valued at about \$200,000, it will be a welcome addition as (TSA) ministers to those most in need across New Brunswick. They could be the victims of fires, floods, hurricanes, search and rescue efforts or volunteers responding to such disasters. TSA also hope to eventually complement other services offering the basics of life, food and shelter to those on the street. "It gives us a unique capability" Wilson states. The Harold E. Ballard Foundation and The Salvation Army Auxiliary-Saint John contributed to the purchase.

The luncheon is more an awareness-raiser than fundraiser states Captain Darren Wiseman of TSA in Saint John. As first responders, careful coordination is in place to ensure the TSA, Emergency Measures Organization, municipalities and the Canadian Red Cross work cooperatively he explains. He made application for the vehicle some time ago and is delighted with the new capacity to serve and give hope, complementing services other groups are providing. The stainless steel interior is impressive, literally a state of the art kitchen on wheels. "We're about people not trucks" he adds. He and Wilson joined some fifty New Brunswickers at a training session last week in Saint John to train and prepare as they build the capacity to disaster response. They will be hiring a local coordinator and are anxious to recruit more volunteers.

Greater Saint John is very fortunate to have TSA in our community in a number of ministries. Through Community Church Ministries, Christmas Assistance, Community and Family Services, Addiction and Rehabilitation Services, Family Tracing Services, Services For The Homeless, Correctional & Justice Services, Emergency and Disaster Relief, Recycling & Thrift Stores, Child Care Services, Chaplaincy Services, the Christmas Kettle Campaign and Turkey Drive, Services to Seniors and War Services Remembered, The Salvation Army has been serving communities since 1865 and are active in one hundred and twenty countries, all provinces of Canada and twenty seven communities in the Maritimes.

Tickets: \$60 each or \$450, table of 8; Information: 634-7166, e-mail [salvationarmy234@rogers.com](mailto:salvationarmy234@rogers.com)



*Community Profile is a weekly column highlighting community causes and work done by non-profit organizations in the Greater Saint John area. It is contributed by Jane Barry, executive director of The Greater Saint John Community Foundation. Contact the foundation at 506-672-8880, [sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com). To view other Community Profiles go to [www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca](http://www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca)*