

The Rose City Group ***Of*** ***Alcoholics Anonymous*** **Est May 3, 1975**

At 8:00pm on Saturday May 3, 1975, the Rose City Group opened its doors for the first time. The First Baptist Church on Sidney St. in Welland was its first home.

Doug M and Don T were the original members starting the group, After the initial start, Don T. left the group, and it was Doug M alone who kept it alive. He managed to enlist the help of Morris G. to keep the group going.

There soon became an issue with the parishioners, in regard to smoking at the meetings, which was becoming a great problem at the time. A new meeting site was needed, and it fell on Doug and Morris to find a new venue.

All Peoples Church on Chaffe St. was approached to see if it would be available to host the Rose City Group meetings. Rev. Wright thought it was a good idea to have the group there.

I would like to say that the group flourished from the start, but by 1976 or 1977, the group began to fall on hard times. Membership declined to about 6 people 3 of them active. They were Don C., Clarence R. and Larry C. throughout the next few years the group had some difficulty attracting new members and the attendance declined.

Some nights there would be only 1 or 2 people at the meeting, but no matter the attendance, the doors of the Rose City Group remained open to carry the message. We always had our coffee and egg salad sandwiches for those who did attend.

If not for the dedication and group conscience, the group now consisting of 2 members, may not have persevered. Don C. would do anything that was asked of him, and Yvon V, the eternal optimist, always believed things would turn around. Through the belief the group grew to upwards of 20 members.

In 2014 the Rose City Group was required to relocate again. The Group re-established their home at Central United Church 12 Young St., Welland Ont. At the new location the group attracted as many as 40 group members. It was in 2016 that this group conscience adjusted the start time to the Saturday night speaker meeting to 7:30 pm.

On April 25th, 2020, the Rose City Group responded to the restrictions implemented by the Province of Ontario in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (a Global pandemic) in an ongoing attempt to practice tradition 5 "Each group has but one primary purpose- to carry its message t the alcoholic who still suffers. The Rose City Group of Alcoholics Anonymous commenced virtual AA meetings on Zoom. The initial meeting on Zoom had an attendance of over 80 individuals.

On April 23, 2022, the Rose City Group opened the doors to yet another chapter in the Group history. Meetings were again held in-person at the Central United Church with an option for guests to participate online through ZOOM as well. This hybrid style meeting is currently in place to date.

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THIS ROSE CITY GROUP HAS HELPED MANY ALCOHOLICS ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN SOBRIETY. THIS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS DOUG M. AND DON C. ALONG WITH THE GUIDANCE OF A HIGHER POWER AS WELL AS THE ASSISTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF A FEW KEY MEMBERS ALONG THE JOURNEY. I AM CONFIDANT WITH A GOD OF THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND THE CONTINUED DEDICATION OF MEMBERS FOCUSING ON THE PRIMARY PURPOSE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, THE ROSE CITY GROUP WILL GO ON FOREVER TO SERVE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

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