

The Rose City Group Of Alcoholics Anonymous

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 driving force behind 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 regards 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.

Rev. Wright from the All Peoples Church on Chaffe St. was approached to see if it would be acceptable to have the group meet in his Church. He agreed, and also 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. The reasons for this are not noteworthy, but membership declined to about 6 people, 3 of them active. They were Don C., Clarence R. and myself, 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 what our doors were always open. We always had our coffee and egg salad sandwiches for those who did attend.

If not for the decision of 2 members, Don C. and Ivan V., it would not have been possible to continue. Donald would do anything that was asked of him, and Ivan, the eternal optimist, always believed things would turn around. No matter if there were nights when only 2 or 3 would be in attendance, we would have a discussion meeting, have our coffee and sandwich and go home.

After struggling for years, the group began to turn around. There was *never* any thought of closing the doors, even though it was suggested by some. The group was keeping us sober, and that was all that mattered.

THIS GROUP HAS HELPED MANY ALCOHOLICS ACHIEVE SOBRIETY, AND CONTINUES TO KEEP THEM SOBER. THIS IS A WONDERFUL LEGACY FOR DOUG M. AND DON C. TO LEAVE WITH US. WITH THE GUIDANCE OF A HIGHER POWER AND THE DEDICATION A FEW GOOD MEMBERS, THE ROSE CITY GROUP WILL GO ON FOR EVER.

THANKS LARRY C.

Noteworthy

The Rose City Group now has 40 members, IN 2014 WE MOVED TO Central United Church on 12 Young St. and changed the starting time to 7:30 pm. And we still have the best coffee in the area. Drop by and see us; the doors are still always open.