

# Not just on Sundays

## New Salvation Army captains in Georgetown

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Salvation Army Captains Michael and Carolyn Simpson have only been working in Georgetown since June of this year, but they can already see the need for their services in the community.

Emergency shelter is one thing that tops their list of concerns. But in order to obtain government funding for a shelter, Georgetown would need sufficient numbers of people seeking housing, and they believe the numbers just aren't there. "Funding for shelters is based on numbers," Carolyn explains. "If you get three people a week who need a shelter then you wouldn't be able to afford to keep the shelter open."

Since there is no shelter, people have to go elsewhere to find housing, and Carolyn says they may

travel to Brampton, Oakville, Burlington or other areas. "A lot of people who are evicted have jobs in Georgetown. And they have no place to stay."

Often Michael and Carolyn end up sending people to the McGibbon Hotel or the Cedar Springs Motel, both of which are in Georgetown. But as Michael stresses hotels are only an option when there are vacancies, and they are only a temporary measure until people find permanent housing.

Another area that concerns them is the incidence of substance abuse whether it's abuse of alcohol or drugs. Carolyn says there are many people that come to her that are tackling these kinds of problems, and they are problems that aren't confined to a particular group. She says middle-aged people, teenagers, middle-income earners and the poor are all likely to suffer from substance abuse.

For Carolyn, getting to the root causes behind the abuse is critical. She can list a number of possible sources including financial stress, loneliness, and depression. Depending on the situation, the Salvation Army may help out by visiting people in the home or recommending that they attend meetings held by Alcoholics Anonymous. In the future, Carolyn says she would also like to set up a support group specifically for people suffering from depression.

But tackling the weightier social issues is only one part of their role. Carolyn and Michael, who are married, are learning to work together for the first time as commissioned officers, and part of their role is offering programs that benefit people both inside their own church at Mountainview Road in Georgetown and in the community. They have children's programs and social activities available to members of their congregation, but they also support people in the community by visiting the sick and others in need of assistance.

Michael says the benefit of belonging to the Salvation Army is that you can provide assistance to a variety of people. "Our ministry isn't restricted to Sunday or just parishioners," says Michael. "We are able to reach out to anyone who needs our help."

**"A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE EVICTED HAVE JOBS"**



Salvation Army Captains Michael and Carolyn Simpson arrived in Georgetown in June, and they say they love the community and its small town feel. The couple, in addition to their work assisting people in the community, work as pastors at the Salvation Army's Community Church in Georgetown. There are approximately 70 people that are part of their congregation. The Salvation Army flag they are holding is kept at the church.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Salvation Army Captains Carolyn and Michael Simpson began working in Georgetown in June of this year. The married couple are both ordained pastors, something required for any captain in the army, and they alternate doing sermons at their church located at 271 Mountainview Road South in Georgetown. To contact the Salvation Army in Georgetown, call 905-877-1374.

## A sense of community

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and what they can do to apply their integrity in day to day events. For people aged in their twenties, a coffee and faith on tap gathering at The Dickens and Firkin, 189 Mill Street will be held. Discussion will revolve around the relationships between men and women with testimonies from single young adults, married couples and those who live a life consecrated to God. Featured speakers for this evening will be David Kantor from the Canada's National Volleyball team reflecting on his own journey as an elite athlete and his struggles to uphold a moral life and his current ministry to youth. Bettina Hagey, who is a mother of four and a pro-life speaker who will be on hand to talk about the meaning of equality between men and women.

Holy Rosary's Youth and Family Encounter is about getting to know people in Milton and in the surrounding areas through their faith. "We thought it would be fun to work for something for the community in a way to get to know everyone in the area." Kerri says.

This is a full day function starting at 9am and going to 6:30 in the evening. To register yourself and your family for the day's event you can go online at [www.yfe-canada2004.com](http://www.yfe-canada2004.com) or call Kerrie herself at 905-878-0411. Cost is only \$45 per family or \$30 per individual.

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