SALVATION ARMY CITADEL

In June 1895, two young women, Captain Isaacson and a lieutenant, brought the Salvation Army to Regina. Their first congregation numbered only four. As part of the great Territorial Fair, also in June, other Army officers came to help hold open-air services at the fair, which helped to create more interest in the Army.

The Salvation Army Citadel was constructed in 1902 at 1738 Broad Street. The building was acquired by the congregation of the Christian Apostolic Church in 1918 and moved to 1772 Montreal Street. It is still in use as the Apostolic Christian Church.

In 1913, the Salvation Army erected the Citadel at 1740 Broad Street. In the early years, beginning in the late 1920s, the Salvation Army Band was a major part of the “Sally Ann” program throughout the world. Whether you were in downtown Regina, or on the streets of New York, in Times Square, it was a common occurrence to see and hear the band performing on a street corner and preaching the gospel and peace making.

The Salvation Army became famous for its dedicated support to the troops in the armed services and became known as “the friend of the soldier” in both WW I and WW II.

Towards the end of 1929, City Council gave a $500 grant to the Salvation Army to work with Regina’s 600 unemployed single men. These funds only stretched to provide “a bed, two bowls of soup and four slices of bread” for 40 to 50 men daily.

“During 1935 and 1936, a yearly average of five thousand transient unemployed passed through the Salvation Army men’s hostel in Regina.” – Drake, Regina

In 1936 the Army bought the former residence of R. H. Williams and turned the 14-room house into the Eventide Home for elderly men. They also purchased the old North-West Territories Administrative Building on Dewdney Avenue and opened it as Grace Haven, a home and hospital for unmarried mothers.

In the 1930s the Army began a successful Christmas Kettle campaign, to provide food and help for needy families. This campaign has continued with the help of other organizations and service clubs.

The Regina Citadel relocated on March 17, 1973 to 2012 McIntyre Street.
THE HISTORY OF REGINA CORPS

On August 23, 1882 a train arrived in the "Pile O’ Bones" district of Saskatchewan. The huge stack of buffalo bones was amassed by Indians in the belief that the buffalo would return to the bones of their forefathers. "Pile O’ Bones" was renamed "Regina" - the Latin word for queen - in honour of Queen Victoria. A new name was given and a new life was begun as settlers moved into the area to set up homes and businesses.

The Salvation Army’s love for God and dependence on the Holy Spirit’s power spread across the Canadian West like a mighty prairie fire. And so it was on April 21, 1895, that Captain L. Isaacson and her assistant, Lieutenant McGee, opened the work of The Salvation Army and the "Blood and Fire" echoed for the first time through our city.

The population of Regina at that time was approximately 1,500, and civic authorities, existing religious denominations and the general public extended a welcome to these two Army officers. From this small beginning, Regina Citadel has grown to be a recognized spiritual centre, and Salvationists have gone out from here to the length and breadth of Canada and all parts of the world to minister to the physically and spiritually needy.

The Army held their first meetings in a room over the McCarthy Department Store, then located at the corner of Broad Street and South Railway Street. The work prospered and many souls were saved and made into Salvation Army soldiers. As time went by, it was soon evident that larger and more suitable quarters were needed, and space was secured over the office and plant of the Regina Daily Standard. This was also later found to be unsuitable for the increasing needs of the corps and a fine frame building was erected on Broad Street.

Near the turn of the century, the Provincial Government in conjunction with the Dominion Government, inaugurated a lively immigration policy and brought to the attention of the people of the British Isles the opportunities and advantages of moving out to this great country. As a result, there was a large immigration of people to the province of Saskatchewan and in a very short time, villages sprang up and towns became cities. Regina was one of these towns, and in 1903 it was incorporated as a city. The city had a population of 3,500.

As the city increased in size, so the work of the Citadel increased and many of the new arrivals were Salvationists from the Old Country. This greatly assisted the local corps and, within a very short time, the frame building was outgrown and meetings had to be held in a theatre on South Railway Street opposite the railway depot.
The Salvation Army in Regina

The movement, which in 1878, became known as The Salvation Army, originated in the Christian Mission meetings conducted in London in the year 1865, by the Rev. William Booth. Its primary aim is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to men and women, especially those who are untouched by ordinary religious efforts. As Ian MacLaren once declared: "The Salvation Army makes religion where there was no religion before."

The Christian Mission grew beyond all expectations. In due course, in the interest of more effective 'warfare' against evil, a military form of organization with uniforms and other distinctive features was adopted. To reach the multitudes who would not enter a place of worship, open air meetings and marches were organized. Flags, brass bands and religious songs set to 'Secular' tunes were further means of attraction.

In 1882 the Army commenced in Canada. In London, Ontario, two young men, who had emigrated to this country (Joe Ludgate and Jack Addie) felt an urge to do something for the masses of the unchurched people. Having had contacts with the Army in England, they started holding services along these same lines, the outcome being the birth of The Salvation Army in the Dominion.

When The Salvation Army "opened fire" in Regina in the year 1893, Regina was but a town of 1,500 persons. Apparently, right from the beginning, the people of Regina were enthusiastic in their welcome to this fiery group of evangelists. Captain Isaacson and Lieutenant McGee, two women officers, had the honour of commencing operations in the City fifty-eight years ago. Since then the Army's flag has been kept flying in an unbroken ministry of devotion to the needy of this community.

The first meetings were held in a room over the McCarthy Department Store located at Broad and South Railway Streets. Many members were added to the little groups and it was necessary to move to larger quarters above the plant of "The Regina Daily Standard." Later, a frame building was erected on Broad Street on the same site now occupied by the present Citadel. The old frame building still stands on Montreal Street, just north of 11th avenue.

In December, 1916, the Province of Saskatchewan was formed into a Division for administration purposes. Major T. Coombs was appointed as Divisional Commander with Headquarters at 403-6 Leader Building, Regina.

Thus the work developed until June 9th, 1918, when another Corps was opened on Retallack street. The Sons of England Hall was first used, then a building on Scarth and Cornwall streets and finally to the permanent building on Retallack and 7th Avenue, erected in 1925.

With the growth of our spiritual work and understanding on the part of the public, we became a centre where people brought their problems. "Social Work," the cry of William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, when he saw shivering, starving men sleeping on the Thames embankment. Salvationists ever since have sought to obey that charge whenever and wherever confronted with human suffering and frustration.

Eighteen full-time, fully trained officers work in the City of Regina daily giving their time, sympathy and wise counsel to the hundreds who daily knock at its doors.

The following are the various services carried on by The Salvation Army in the City of Regina:

THE CITADEL CORPS under the direction of Senior Captain and Mrs. J. Robertson and the NORTH-SIDE CORPS under the command of Captain Elizabeth
Peacocke and Lieutenant Daisy Higgins, are doing a good work amongst the youth of the City. While their duties are chiefly evangelistic in nature and they conduct an extensive ministry amongst their congregations both indoors and out, they spend many hours amongst the needy, giving guidance, comfort and help in many ways. It is also from the spiritual work of The Salvation Army that we look for the full time workers to man the many important posts throughout our organization. In fact, without the constant flow of dedicated youth, compassionate in spirit and moved by high motives, this Salvation Army would soon be non-existent.

THE BYRON GATE EVENTIDE HOME FOR MEN, situated at 2505 Victoria avenue, under the direction of Senior Major and Mrs. John Sullivan, are doing a splendid work to meet the needs of aged men. It is regrettable that old age should be for so many the most troublesome part of life. Old age often robs a person of physical strength so that they can neither work or care for themselves and their lot becomes a very hard and lonely one. Here, with homelike and comfortable surroundings, this home with accommodation for seventy-five men, and always taxed to capacity, makes the eventide of life bright and beautiful.

The GRACE HAVEN HOME AND HOSPITAL under the supervision of Senior Major Nellie Bunnell, and situated at 3302 Dewdney avenue, provides a haven for the unmarried mother. Serious and complex are the problems solved here, but the happy ending of so many who come to us in their distress makes this one of the most worth-while projects of The Salvation Army. A high percentage who seek shelter here find at last the happiness they blundered in seeking.

THE MEN’S SOCIAL DEPARTMENT: This branch of our activities is a most interesting and busy centre. Here the stranded and homeless, young and old alike, find an open door and employment. This institution, under the sympathetic and experienced guidance of Senior Major and Mrs. Percy Alder, do a quiet but efficient job in meeting the needs of so many. It is here where old furniture is repaired and used clothing is made available to those who cannot afford new. It is here where salvage is turned into dollars to meet the operating deficit of this work of reclamation and rehabilitation. Daily in the police court and weekly visits to conduct religious services in the prison, provides contacts that often rescues the first offenders and brings hope to many who have taken the wrong turning in life.

The office of THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDER, Brigadier Alfred Dixon, who supervises the religious work in the whole Province of Saskatchewan, is also situated in Regina in the Western Trust Building.

In addition to the above Departments, the PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT for Southern Saskatchewan is situated in the Western Trust Building. This office acts as a liaison to a great host of friends who support the many projects of this organization. From here is conducted the many Appeals made under the caption “Red Shield” and contacts made with the surrounding municipalities. This office is directed by Major John J. Smith.

THE SALVATION ARMY ADVISORY BOARD

Realizing the need for expert guidance in business and other matters pertaining to this rapidly growing Army, The Salvation Army called on many influential and interested citizens to give their advice and valuable support to this organization.

The Regina Citizen’s Advisory Board was organized on August 11th, 1935 and was the first of such to be registered in Canada.

It’s present membership is as follows:

conducted in September, 1881, in King Livemore’s Tent.

The first three Anglican churches in the region were built in the 1820s. The first was St. Andrew’s Church, founded in 1823. St. Paul’s Church, founded in 1824, and St. George’s Church, founded in 1826.

Today, all three churches are still standing, although they have undergone significant changes over time. St. Andrew’s Church was destroyed by fire in 1869 and rebuilt in 1870. St. Paul’s Church was extensively renovated in 1897. St. George’s Church was damaged by fire in 1908 and was restored in 1909.

The oldest extant church in the region is St. Andrew’s Church, founded in 1823. It was rebuilt in 1870 after a fire destroyed the original building. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Anglican Church of the Redeemer, founded in 1824, was destroyed by fire in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1870 and again in 1897. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, founded in 1826, was destroyed by fire in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1870 and again in 1897. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Baptist Church, founded in 1825, was the first Baptist church in the region. It was destroyed by fire in 1869 and rebuilt in 1870. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Methodist Church, founded in 1826, was destroyed by fire in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1870 and again in 1897. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Presbyterian Church, founded in 1827, was destroyed by fire in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1870 and again in 1897. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Roman Catholic Church, founded in 1828, was destroyed by fire in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1870 and again in 1897. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church, founded in 1829, was destroyed by fire in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1870 and again in 1897. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Jewish Synagogue, founded in 1830, was destroyed by fire in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1870 and again in 1897. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.

The Chinese Church, founded in 1831, was destroyed by fire in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1870 and again in 1897. The stained glass windows were added in 1897.