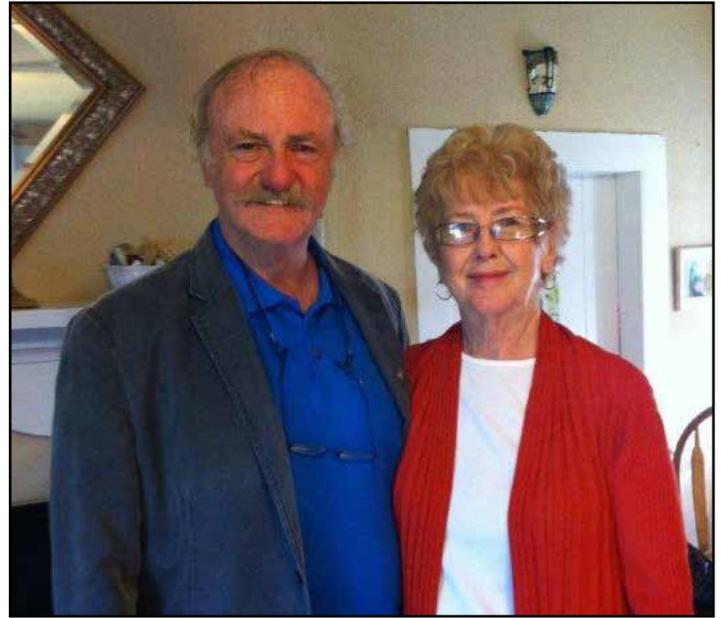


## **Rick and Elaine Bedard, from Chatham, Ontario, Canada Ezra Canada Representatives for the Western Ontario District**

Elaine and Rick have been happily married for forty years with two children, a boy and a girl, who are a real blessing from the Lord. Rick is a retired Ontario Provincial Police Officer, working in that field for thirty two and one-half years. He continues to work occasionally as a Security Officer. His wife, Elaine, is a retired Ontario Elementary School Teacher. They are avid sports fans and love big boat sailing on the Great Lakes. They are strong born again Evangelical Christians who love Israel with a passion and their home church is Evangel Community Church in Chatham, Ontario.



They have been involved with Ezra Canada for approximately one year as donors and prayer supporters. The Lord had given them a special love for the Jewish people and after reading a brochure about Ezra Canada that Rick had picked up while visiting a neighboring church, Rick contacted Rev. Roy Trepanier who is the Executive Director for Ezra Canada. He was very impressed with the content of their conversation and learned that Ezra Canada assists Jewish people from the former USSR as well as South America and other areas in the world, to return to their homeland of Israel. As Rick had travelled to Israel on two occasions as a volunteer in a three week program through Sar-el Canada, a branch of the Israeli Defense Forces, he felt very comfortable about the Ezra ministry and they became monthly donors.

Early on last fall, both Elaine and Rick felt the Lord leading them to become involved with Ezra Canada. After calling and expressing this to Rev. Roy, "he graciously accepted what we believe is the Lord's will for us, and he and his lovely wife Mariette provided the necessary training and supplies to present the ministry of Ezra Canada to the churches in our area. We are honored to be the representatives for Ezra Canada in the Western Ontario District and look forward to becoming "fund-raisers" for the Lord in His program of "Aliyah".