

OPP's Operation Heat teams up with Mac's, The Push for Change

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Norfolk News

By [Mike Peeling](#)

Youth showing community pride, positive behaviour and demonstrating how they can be a force for change in their communities may earn themselves a well-deserved reward this winter.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), in conjunction with its community safety partner The Push for Change, is proud to be joining Mac's Convenience Stores across Ontario for Operation Heat 2016.

The 2016 Operation Heat launch took place on Nov. 10 at the Mac's Convenience Store on Main Street in Port Dover. The event welcomed students from surrounding schools and The Push for Change executive director and motivational speaker Joe Roberts.

"The Push for Change is proud to be involved in this partnership to make sustainable change and help prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness," said Roberts, a former street youth who is now a celebrated entrepreneur. Roberts is pushing a shopping cart across Canada to spread awareness about homeless youth.

OPP officers will be on the lookout in communities across the province. When they "catch" a youth participating in positive change, the officers will thank them in the form of a free ticket for a hot chocolate.

A youth may receive a "Positive Ticket" from an OPP officer for a number of positive behaviours such as helping others in need, following rules, being leaders, doing a good deed, participating in community activities and demonstrating community pride by, for example, picking up trash.

"Not only can our officers use positive ticketing to recognize good behavior, but it also offers opportunities to interact and initiate relationships with youth in our communities" said OPP Inspector Robyn MacEachern of community safety services.

"Mac's is excited to once again partner with the OPP on this important initiative that encourages youth across Ontario to make positive decisions within their communities" said Sean Sportun, manager of loss prevention and security for Mac's in central Canada.

Mike Peeling is a reporter and photographer with Brant News. He can be reached at mpeeling@brantnews.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mpeeling](#), and Brant News on [Facebook](#)

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