

400 students push one shopping cart to end homelessness

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Peter Lee, Record staff

Marie Roberts and her husband Joe Roberts push a shopping cart in Cambridge on Friday.

Waterloo Region Record

By [Jeff Outhit](#)

CAMBRIDGE — Joe [Roberts](#) is pushing his shopping cart across Canada to raise money to fight youth homelessness. He had help Friday, joined by 400 elementary students who don't want anyone to be homeless.

They all marched along Saginaw Parkway, before presenting Roberts with \$5,500 raised by students in the [Waterloo Catholic District School Board](#).

"It's for a really good cause," said Seth Cabral, 12, of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Elementary [School](#). He worries that young people who become homeless will have dimmer futures. It saddens him.

"Even in our community, in Cambridge, we still have homeless people and we want to change that," he said.

"No one wants to be homeless. They all want to have a home," said Kristina Trichilo, 13. "They're homeless because maybe something went wrong in their home. The problems in the house are causing them to leave."

Roberts, 50, was homeless as a youth before he became an advocate and author. "By the time I was 19 I was pushing a shopping cart around east Vancouver," he said.

He has pushed his cart for 4,311 kilometres on a meandering route and says he's raised \$300,000 for a homeless charity. He's almost halfway through his trek, dubbed [The Push for Change](#), pushing a custom cart that's actually a souped-up baby carriage designed by high school students.

"Inside each and every one of these students is an unlimited, untapped possibility and potential," Roberts said. "They can go out and do absolutely anything in their lives."

Roberts will be pushing his shopping cart with other students Monday in Kitchener.

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