

# Push for Change for homeless youth comes to Parry Sound

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## The Push For Change



Stephannie Johnson/Metroland

*West Parry Sound OPP Constable Kyle Ney, left and Parry Sound Fire Department Lt. Nathan Jeffery along with other members of the OPP and fire department will spend the night on the fire hall roof as part of the Push For Change event.*

Parry Sound North Star

By [Stephannie Johnson](#)

PARRY SOUND — The community is coming together for homeless youth not just here, but across the country.



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Friday, members of the West Parry Sound OPP, OPP Auxiliary Unit and the Parry Sound Fire Department will spend the night on the Parry Sound Fire Hall's roof in support of the Push For Change charity.

The initiative is headed by Nathan Jeffery, member of the OPP Auxiliary Unit and Parry Sound Fire Department, who said he was inspired to join the [Push for Change movement](#) after watching an emotional video of the [organization's founder Joe Roberts](#).

"Joe Roberts (was) explaining his experience as a homeless youth in British Columbia. His life took a turn for the better after a positive experience with an OPP constable in Barrie, Ontario. When I heard that Joe was coming through Parry Sound in the new year, and that Push for Change was encouraging people to conduct Sleep Out Challenges, I knew I wanted to be a part of it," Jeffery said. "Luckily it wasn't just me, though, as I have had phenomenal support from my supervisors, local media outlets and businesses. Although we don't have exact numbers, there are definitely youth in our area who don't have a fixed address, or a place to call home — we can't ignore that."

While volunteers get comfy on the rooftop, additional volunteers down at street level from 4 to 7 p.m. will collect donations for the Push for Change as well as non-perishable food items for Harvest Share, and warm clothing for the Salvation Army.

"Maurizio's Pizzeria and North of Muskoka Embroidery are combining efforts to tackle shortages in warm winter apparel. North of Muskoka Embroidery has offered their jackets at wholesale pricing for the event, and will be donating items of overstock. Maurizio's Pizzeria has pledged a portion of proceeds from the day's sales to purchasing some of these jackets," Jeffery said.

The Push for Change founder Joe Roberts is expected to come through Parry Sound on Wednesday, Jan. 11 as

part of his cross-Canada trek to raise awareness and funds to end youth homelessness. Roberts' journey began on May 1, 2016 in St. John's, Newfoundland and will end on Sept. 30, 2017 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

As part of his visit to the community, Roberts will conduct a 24-kilometre walk through the area, joined by local dignitaries as well as the OPP Northeast Region Command staff, ending at the West Parry Sound OPP detachment. Following this walk, Roberts will speak at a local school before conducting a public talk at the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board office at 1 Beechwood Drive from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The event is free; however, the public is invited to bring donations of toiletries as well as canned food.

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