



Push for Change advocate Joe Roberts is pushing a shopping cart across Canada to raise awareness of homeless youth. Kenora detachment OPP are teaming up with local schools and community groups to stage hockey games and raise funds for the cause at Kenora Recreation Centre, Thursday, Feb. 2. SUPPLIED PHOTO

A hockey game at the Kenora Recreation Centre on Thursday, Feb. 2 will be about more than who wins or loses.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have teamed up with various community stakeholders, including hockey players on both the Beaver Brae Broncos and St. Thomas Aquinas Saints girls and boys teams, will participate in a hockey game in support of Push For Change, a national awareness campaign to help end youth homelessness. Other participants in the hockey game include the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry enforcement.

OPP are holding more than 30 Hockey Challenge events across the province and Sportsnet is putting together a feature for broadcast on Feb. 18 for Hockey Day in Canada. More than 170 communities are planning an event to raise awareness of the cause by staging hockey games, sleepout challenges and community meals.

Push for Change was started by Joe Roberts, a former street youth turned successful entrepreneur, who began pushing a shopping cart 9,000 kilometres across Canada on May 1, 2016 to raise awareness of youth homelessness. Roberts began his journey in St. John's, NFLD and will end it in Vancouver, B.C. on Sept. 30, 2017.

Roberts chose a shopping cart as the symbol for his mission because of its association with street people and

homelessness. The route Roberts is on takes him through Ontario between Sept. 22, 2016 and April 11, 2017.

There will be a special address before the puck drops on the Hockey Challenge on Thursday from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and there will be a videotaped message from Roberts played during the intermission.

Stop by the Kenora Recreation Centre and cheer on the players and support a good cause. If you can't make the hockey game, visit www.pushforchange.com to make a donation or just to learn more about the initiative.