

College students, OPP to square off for hockey game in support of homelessness work

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By Editorial Staff

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A group of Lambton College students will face off with members of the Ontario Provincial Police in a charity hockey game to raise funds for youth homelessness.

The annual showdown, organized by students enrolled in the College's Police Foundations and Protection, Security & Investigation programs, will take place immediately following the Sarnia Sting matchup against the Saginaw Spirit on Sunday, January 29 at 1 p.m. Puck drop is expected to be at 3:30 p.m.

Guests of the Sting's Sunday afternoon game that day are invited to attend the charity game at no additional charge.

Proceeds raised from the charity game will be split equally between the Push for Change and The Hub, Sarnia-Lambton's new youth space. [A feature story about the Push for Change](#) organization appeared on Lambton Shield.

Former NHL referee and OPP Officer Don Van Massenhoven will be officiating the charity game and providing autographs during the second intermission of the Sting game. Van Massenhoven has also donated a signed referee jersey to be raffled off during the charity game.

A signed Sting jersey will also be up for grabs during the charity game.

Lambton College will be accepting donations of toiletries for The Hub leading up to and during the game.

The charity match has also been selected to be featured on a special Sportsnet edition highlighting charity hockey games across the province, to be aired in February.

Admission to the charity game only will be free for all attendees with donation of unopened toiletries which are being collected for The Hub.

Bill Abercrombie, President of the Sarnia Sting Hockey Club, was instrumental in securing the prime ice time for the event.

“As an organization, we’re thrilled to be a part of this event,” said Abercrombie, referencing the story of Joe Roberts and Push for Change. “The work that his organization is doing throughout the country is beyond impressive. On a local level, Rebound Sarnia-Lambton is a very worthy cause, and one that we are certainly happy to align ourselves with,” said Abercrombie. “As we’ve seen so many times before, we are confident that the Sting faithful will jump on board and help raise funds and awareness for putting an end to youth homelessness on January 29th.”

Rob Kardas, vice president, Student Success & Campus Services at Lambton College, said the charity game is a great example of the community working together to make a difference.

“Our students are always working to make a difference in our community, and I think this charity game is a great example of many organizations working together to achieve the same goal,” he said. “We’re very thankful to partners like the Sting, Sarnia-Lambton Rebound and the OPP for helping us make these events a success and continuing to raise awareness about initiatives like Push for Change and The Hub.”

“The Lambton Ontario Provincial Police is extremely grateful to have been engaged with our local community partners,” said Chris Doupe, Lambton OPP Community Safety and Media Relations, of the OPP involvement with the initiative.

Tickets for the Sting game on Sunday, January 29 can be purchased at Lambton College by phoning (519) 542-7751 ext. 3347. Anyone wishing to donate toiletries for The Hub prior to the game can also contact this number.

Joe Roberts is leading a 9,000-kilometre, 517-day trek across Canada to raise awareness and funds to end youth homelessness. Over the course of his journey, Roberts will be pushing a shopping cart (a symbol of chronic homelessness), 24 km per day through over 400 communities.

Lambton College students in partnership with Sarnia-Lambton Rebound and the OPP have been working together to raise awareness about youth homelessness and encourage everyone in Sarnia-Lambton to work together to make sustainable change for local youth.

For more information on The Push for Change, go to: thepushforchange.com