



Friday, November 25, 2016

SleepOut Challenge At Georgian College

Orillia | by Ian MacLennan

Participants will sleep in cardboard boxes to raise awareness about youth homelessness



There could be raindrops or snowflakes in the air when a group of people at Orillia's Georgian College crawl into cardboard boxes and sleep outdoors tonight.

The SleepOut Challenge being held at the campus is to raise awareness about youth homelessness.

As many as 70 students have signed up and the community is also invited to take part.

Social Service Worker student Trish Flowers says the event is a partnership with the Push for Change Campaign by Joe Roberts, a former homeless youth turned CEO, who is pushing a shopping cart from Vancouver to Nova Scotia to raise awareness and funding.

Roberts, who is a former Barrie resident, will be pushing his shopping cart through Simcoe County next month.

Flowers says tonight's SleepOut will have guest speakers including a former homeless youth.

There will also be a scavenger hunt for basic necessities, such as a toothbrush and toilet paper, so people understand what homeless youth are struggling to find every day.

Participants will sleep in cardboard boxes from midnight to 7 a.m., but Flowers says you don't have to spend a whole night in the box, it can be just for a few hours.

People can make cash donations and bid on auction items.

50 per cent of the funding will go to the Push for Change campaign, while the other half will go to the OPP Youth Foundation to help develop a youth shelter in Orillia.

The SleepOut Challenge starts at 7 this evening(FRI.)



12.0°C
Partly Cloudy
Wind: **SW 40 gust 58 km/h**



Periods of rain, a strong southwest wind.
(50 kmh)
[full forecast](#)



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