

Toys for Tots to include a Treasures for Teens campaign this year

By Eamonn Maher
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The Halton Regional Police Service has supported the Toys for Tots program since 2000, but it's a bit of a misnomer since the annual drive for gifts also includes youths age 12-18.

Constable Maureen Andrew of the HRPS One District Community Mobilization Bureau suggested that Treasures for Teens might be a better context for the intended recipients of this year's campaign, which is set to launch this Sunday afternoon at the Georgetown Market Place.

While Toys for Tots still relies on the benevolence of donations from the community, Andrew feels that it's equally important for older kids who for a variety of reasons might not find that gift they'd been hoping for to have their wishes granted at that special time of year.

"People seem to take the attitude that, well, they're teenagers. They don't need Christmas gifts, and yet, to see these kids' faces brighten up when they receive



The Georgetown Market Place got the ball rolling on the 2015 Treasures for Teens campaign, a spinoff of the successful Toys for Tots program that's been in existence for the past 15 years. Pictured above, Herminia Henderson (left) property manager of Georgetown Market Place and office manager Kori Arsenault present Halton Regional Police Const. Naresh Dabas of 11 Division with the mall's donation to Treasures for Teens.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

them. It's worth its weight in gold," she said.

"I work it every day and I live in the community. I'm still floored by the level of at-risk people or underprivileged kids who we're passing by when nobody would give them

a second glance."

Andrew is based out of the HRPS detachment in Milton but is intimately familiar with the startling number of youths in Halton Hills either living in underprivileged situations or even on the streets.

In 2014, Toys for Tots enjoyed its most successful year to date, providing gifts for about 500 families in this municipality, reaching some 1,300 children. Some gifts had to be purchased to meet the wishes of the recipients, many of which in-

cluded basic needs such as winter clothing.

This year, Andrew plans to inject some enthusiasm into Treasures for Teens by compiling wish lists of the youths so that donors can adopt a family to support.

Herminia Henderson, property manager at the Georgetown Market Place, said she was shocked to hear some of the sad stories Andrew comes across during her day and felt compelled to help by donating \$2,500 to the campaign, while also encouraging other local businesses and organizations to follow suit.

The Halton Hills launch of Toys for Tots/Treasures for Teens will run from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Market Place to coincide with Santa Claus's arrival at the mall.

For more info about supporting the program, contact 905-825-4747 ext. 2457 or email Maureen.Andrew@haltonpolice.ca

Members of the public are invited to donate cash, Canadian Tire money and/or new, unwrapped toys at any Canadian Tire location or any police station in Halton Region between Nov. 13 and Dec. 18.

'High-milers' in Halton Hills halted by Project Rural Impact

The HRPS reported three incidents of stunt driving over the weekend in Halton Hills that included charges laid against a G2 licence holder and a 64-year-old woman from Acton driving 86 km/h over the speed limit.

Project Rural Impact is targeting aggressive and lead-footed motorists in the north Halton area this month and an officer came across

a female driver clocked doing 146 km/h in a posted 60 km/h zone on Sunday. The woman was arrested and charged and her vehicle has been impounded for seven days.

On Friday, a G2 class driver was nabbed for speeding at 122 km/h in a 60 km/h zone on 5 Sideroad at Sixth Line and another was stopped doing 53 km/h over the limit on Fourth Line. Both mo-

torists also had their licences suspended and vehicles impounded for one week.

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A Georgetown man faces impaired driving charges after a vehicle was stopped in Georgetown South early Monday morning.

A Halton Regional Police officer on patrol in the Eighth Line/Argyll Rd. area became concerned

about the manner in which a red Oldsmobile was being driven at approximately 2:45 a.m. Nov. 9.

The vehicle was stopped and the officers developed grounds to believe the driver had consumed alcohol.

Charged with impaired driving and refusing to take a breathalyzer test is Adam Lannan, 25.

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Halton Regional Police responded to a citizen's complaint of a male engaged in an indecent act in the parking lot of the Metro grocery store in Georgetown South on Thursday afternoon.

Officers located the male sitting in a van at around 4 p.m. on Nov. 5.

Charged with committing an indecent act is Kastroit Strellci, 26, of Etobicoke.

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