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Benevolent bikers: Final Order Riding Club hits road for charities

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To a bystander, it must have seemed like an episode of the hit outlaw biker gang TV series Sons of Anarchy, watching a group of about two dozen motorcycle riders clad in black, banging on patio doors at a Holiday Inn in Barrie, Ont.

Inside the hotel rooms were residents of a 25-unit apartment building destroyed by a late-April fire, left homeless with most of their personal belongings up in smoke.

"We're knocking on doors and these people are petrified, saying 'What did I do, or what did my kid do?" laughed Mark Gagne, president of the Halton Hillsbased Final Order Riding Club (FORC).

"And we're like, 'No, no. We're here to support you." About two-dozen FORC members had loaded a trailer full of necessities such as diapers, toothpaste and food and headed up Highway 400, distributing restaurant and department store gift cards to the fire

victims. Gagne noted that the typical biker stereotypes quickly melted away when the recipients realized that only good intentions were involved.

"We are 100 per cent non-



Final Order Riding Club photo

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette is presented with a support sweater from Final Order Riding Club vice president Bruce Morgan and fellow members at the Civic Centre. The local riding club has been donating its time and resources to lend a hand to local charities and community groups in its two years of existence in Halton Hills.

profit. It's all about family, friends and fun for us now. No more politics," he remarked, adding that Final Order means that this is the last club its members will join.

"We just want to let the

community know that we're here to support any needs, that's the main thing. We get out for a ride when we can. We're not going to put a bunch of pansies and roses on our backs or patches. You still need

some wow factor, but helping people out is what the Final Order represents for sure.

This is the second year on the road for the club, consisting of 29 mostly Halton Hills residents who broke away from other groups in order to stay closer to home, said vice president Bruce Morgan.

In the past year the club has been involved with several charity events, including a Christmas toy drive for the local women's shelter and the Scare Cancer organization.

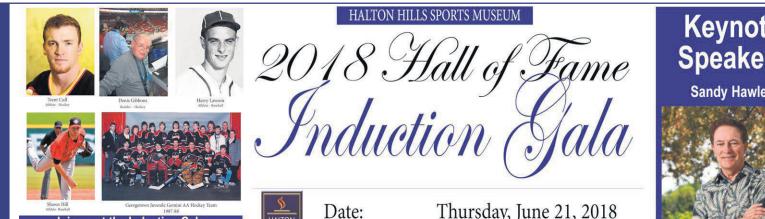
The group also recently fulfilled the 72nd birthday wishes of local resident Maddeline Ostachuk, who loves motorcycles and was thrilled to hear the roar come to her front door. Mayor Rick Bonnette has become acquainted with the club as well by taking a ride on member Rachel De-Priest's three-wheeled spider bike.

"We're just a group of motorcycle enthusiasts made up of a wide variety of people, very diverse," said Morgan.

"We floored everybody with how much we collected in the toy drive in December because we were a new club. With the support of all the outside clubs we're affiliated with, it's a giant network that we have behind us and helping people out is what gives us gratification."

Along with a summer fundraiser in July, FORC plans to enter a float in the Georgetown Santa Claus parade and members plan to ride at the Canada Day celebrations in Glen Williams.

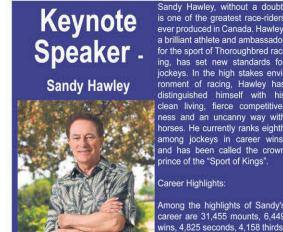
To contact the club, you can request to join the Final Order Support Group Facebook page and view the group's upcoming events.



Join us at the Induction Gala m - Induction Ceremony • 9:00 pm Congratulatory Reception Tickets for the Gala ceremony can be reserved through Glenda Nixdorf at 905-873-1360 or info.hhsm@bell.net

Location:

Thursday, June 21, 2018 The John Elliott Theatre



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Career Highlights

Among the highlights of Sandy's areer are 31,455 mounts, 6,449 vins, 4,825 seconds, 4,158 thirds and \$88,666,071 in purse ear