

COMMUNITY

SALVATION ARMY KICKS OFF KETTLE CAMPAIGN AT GEORGETOWN MARKETPLACE

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It was a merry evening in the Georgetown Marketplace on Nov. 22, as the sounds of caroling filled the halls during the kick off of the Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle campaign.

Led by the brass band from Norval United Church, visitors sang songs and watched as Mayor Rick Bonnette officially launched the campaign by making his very own contribution to the kettle.

"For the campaign this year, our target is \$80,000, just for the kettles in Georgetown," Kettle co-ordinator Emily Harman said. "Those funds sustain us through the entire year; we only fundraise at this



Veronica Appia/Metroland
Mayor Rick Bonnette sings 'Jingle Bells' along with young visitors Evelyn Claudia Rybalov, Alexander Rybalov, Austin van Koningsbruggen and Aislyn van Koningsbruggen.

one point."

Harman says there are 22 kettle days and the charity is looking for additional volunteers, as it requires up to 27 people per day to

participate in two-hour shifts.

In addition to monetary donations, the Salvation Army will be accepting toys until Dec. 17.

NEWS

NORVAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WINS CULTURE DAYS' PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

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The Norval Community Association's efforts to build a relationship with Indigenous communities has been recognized with the Ontario Culture Days Award.

The association won the People's Choice Award for hosting a Kairos Blanket Exercise on Culture Days, Sept. 28-30. The exercise is a participatory history lesson developed in collaboration with Indigenous elders that fosters understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

"We've had a lot of focus on building relationships with First Nations people," said Norval Community Association president Kathy Gastle. "We felt it is really important to understand the relationship with First Nations and our community. That was our vision. It was another opportunity to educate."

The exercise covers more than 500 years of history in a two-hour participatory workshop. As part of the exercise, participants were invited to take on the roles of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Standing on blankets that represent the land, they walk through pre-contact, treaty making, colonization, resistance and culture appropriation.

The exercise is followed by a debriefing session in which participants have the opportunity to discuss the experience as a group with the facilitators.

"The leaders are First Nations people tell-

ing their stories," Gastle said. "That makes it really impactful for the participants."

The public submitted nominees for the awards and the People's Choice Award was determined by a public vote on the Culture Days Facebook page in November.

Two local Culture Days initiatives were also recognized, earning runner-up status. The Halton Hills Georgetown Corridor finished second to Kingsville in the Best Corridor category. The committee of experienced Culture Days organizers choosing the awards said: "Not only did the Halton Hills Georgetown Corridor act as an excellent link between the bustling farmers market, library and cultural centre, it also connected the audience with programming at participating venues throughout the downtown. Volunteers at the market were available to answer questions and give directions, while live music and outdoor workshops ensured the downtown felt lively and engaging to passersby."

Also named as a runner-up was OnBeat in the Hills, which took second in Best Exemplification of the Theme.

"Three prominent Halton Hills musical groups joined forces to offer a unique, magical, musical evening," the committee said.

A joint effort by the Halton Hills Concert Band, the Georgetown Choral Society and the Gaudeamus Choir, participants were invited to experiment with the instruments, try their hand at conducting, or singing along with the choir.

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