

OPP Unit is geared up to drive

New Offender Transport Unit joins with Salvation Army in food drive

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

As new neighbours in town, members of the OPP's Offender Transport Unit wanted to make themselves known in the community and felt that helping out was the way to go. Officers from the fledgling unit, which opened in Milton in January of this year, decided recently to begin their own food drive in support of Milton's one and only food bank.

The food drive takes place on Saturday, November 27 from 9 am to 5pm in front of Milton's Loblaws store.

Special Constable Michael Greene, who works for the unit along with 49 other officers, says he was trying to find a way to make a difference in the community, but he didn't have to look far to find a worthy cause. "I decided to find a food bank. I looked around Milton and they (the Salvation Army) run the only food bank in Milton."

Support wasn't long in coming for the OPP's community project. Everyone at the unit, including the two secretaries on staff as well as Staff Sergeant Alan Zunder, is excited about the food drive. "The Staff Sergeant is giving us the opportunity to help and he is 100 per cent behind us" says Special Constable Greene.

As part of their role, officers with the Offender Transport Unit transport inmates to and from court houses in the GTA as well as other parts of southern Ontario. The geographic area covered by the unit is huge, taking in a substantial portion of southern Ontario from Orangeville in the north to Niagara in the south. The unit, which has assumed the responsibility of transporting inmates for numerous police departments, fulfills

a vital role. "We save thousands of hours of front-line officers' time," says Special Constable Greene, and he notes that the officers attached to the unit see their role as more than just transporting inmates; they also want to be active participants in the community.

Special Constable Greene says the food drive wouldn't be possible without the assistance of Mark Richards, the manager of the Milton Loblaws, as well as Laurie Good, a family service worker from the Salvation Army.

Food drive organizers are asking the public to donate non-perishables such as canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, dry pasta and school snacks. Mrs. Good says the Salvation Army will also accept grocery vouchers that are available from Loblaws or other stores as well as cheques made payable to the Salvation Army Milton. No donations of cash will be accepted.

Mrs. Good said she's delighted with the support her organization has received from both the OPP Offender Transport Unit and the Milton Loblaws.

If anyone is able to donate food prior to the food drive, the Salvation Army is accepting donations. Mrs. Good says she has very little food available for people in need and any donations would be welcome as soon as possible. "I need food all year through. That way we won't get to this point now where we are extremely low."



Supporters of the drive include (from left to right, standing) Special Constable Jeremy Lamperd, Special Constable Justin Antoine, Special Constable Tanya MacDonald, Laurie Good of the Salvation Army, Special Constable Mike Greene, and Special Constable Joe Todd. Kneeling in the foreground is Special Constable Sheri Ahrens.

No loaves and no fishes

Salvation Army food banks run low

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

The amount of food available at the Salvation Army's food bank in Milton is low enough that a family service worker with the non-profit organization says she's concerned about whether she can make do until Christmas. And she says that her plight is one shared by other Salvation Armies in the area.

Laurie Good, who has worked for the Salvation Army for 11 years, has been in charge of the food bank for the past six to seven years in her role as a family service worker. But since she took over this position she can't recall a time when the level of food available has been this low. There's a long list of food items that Mrs. Good's office needs that includes peanut butter, canned tomatoes, cereal, dried pasta, chunky soup and juice. "It's very disheartening to know that I don't have this stuff to give out. I've never experienced the food being this low since I've been a family service worker."

Each December Milton firefighters hold an annual food drive to benefit the Salvation Army in Milton. This drive provides food that usually lasts until the following December. However, Mrs. Good says this year the amount of food from last year's food drive isn't keeping up with demand. And she added that other Salvation Armies are also worried about their levels of food. "Oakville is

low. Mississauga is low. Meadowvale is low. And I know that Guelph is low because they called me and they wanted to know if I could spare any food."

Aisha King, who works as a community services worker at the Salvation Army's Oakville family services office, says her office decided to bump up its food drive to an earlier date because of the low levels of food. Usually the annual food drive for Oakville is held in November, but this year the date has been set for October 23. She believes the food drive from last year didn't bring in as much food as in previous years.

Linda Howells, a family service worker with the Salvation Army in Georgetown, says there is as yet no Salvation Army food bank in Georgetown. However, her office supplies food vouchers that can be used at Brian's Food Basics. The food bank in Georgetown is run by a volunteer organization, Georgetown Breadbasket. No one could be reached for comment at the Georgetown Breadbasket as of press time.

The phone number for the Salvation Army in Milton is 905-875-1022. The Oakville branch can be reached at 905-827-5324, ext. 22. In Georgetown, people can call the Salvation Army at 905-877-9470. The number for the Salvation Army in Acton is 519-853-5610. To reach Georgetown Breadbasket, call 905-873-3368.

Fall Collection in store now!

Mathers
MEN'S WEAR

260 MAIN ST. E. MILTON
905-878-5397

Agent for Freeman Formal Wear
FREEMAN

OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 30th!



Visit the Milton Chamber of Commerce Farmers' Market

Every Saturday Morning in downtown Milton
Main Street from Martin to James
7:00 am to 12:00 am