

Police check grocery stores for Salvation Army thieves

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and Thornhill.

"It's shocking," Scott said. "The money was to be used to buy toys — one large and one small for every child, as well as stocking stuffers, clothes, books and puzzles. The certificates buy enough food to last about a week."

She said needy families include those on social assistance, single moms and dads who can't make ends meet on one income, or families that have run into a patch of bad luck recently.

"Nobody will go without," vowed Salvation Army Capt Ken Ritson, GTA division secretary. "If we can't generate the funds, we'll take from other areas. But we're hoping people will respond, there's still time. We'd really be in trouble if this happened on the 21st or 22nd."

York Regional Police officers were dusting the office for fingerprints Thursday and the investigation continues. Const. Gino Benedetti is asking employees of No Frills, Loblaw's and Super Centre stores to keep their eyes open for the stolen certificates, especially if they are being used by someone who seems inappropriate.

"If a mother is shopping with her three children, that's one thing," he said. "If someone comes in using gift certificate to buy a bag of chips, that's something else."

Markham Mayor Don Cousens said he's saddened by the theft.

"It's really too bad this kind of element exists in our own backyard," Cousens said. "I'm amazed someone



DON COUSENS: Mayor is disturbed by theft but confident residents will rally to help Salvation Army.

would have the gall to break into the Salvation Army to try and ruin so many people's Christmas. These thieves obviously have no respect for anyone else's needs or interests."

But he said he's sure area residents will rise to the call.

"I'm proud to say we have the kind of community that reaches out to people when there's a need. When people become aware someone needs help, they always seem to step up. I have no doubt the same thing will happen in this case."

If you can help, officials suggest calling 472-3009 or throwing a few extra dollars into the Salvation Army kettles located local shopping centres this season.

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Get on the GO

Fare ideas that make cents for you (and lots of sense too!)

By David Onodera, Special Correspondent

Where can you GO in the GTA?

Looking for a more convenient way to travel and save some money too? GO Transit has some great fare ideas to help you get around the GTA. Read on and find out how to make your travel a better buy.

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In Hamilton and Mississauga, discounted monthly stickers are available for GO Transit monthly pass or Twin Pass holders that permit travel to and from local GO stations.

In Toronto, the combined GO Transit and Toronto Transit Commission Twin Pass offers users a combined GO adult monthly pass and an adult TTC Metropass in one. It's valid for unlimited travel in a calendar month between specified fare zones on the GO system, as well as unlimited travel on the TTC system. Twin Passes are sold only by GO Transit, and save you \$10 off over the combined regular cost of the two passes.

Full information on GO Transit's fare discount program is available from GO Transit.

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Have you driven your car to your local GO station lately, only to find all the parking spaces occupied?

Steady increases in GO Train ridership have put the squeeze on many of GO's parking lots.

Expanding parking lots is only one solution. GO Transit offers customers a number of alternatives.

Use local transit or the GO Bus to reach the train station. Many peak-hour GO Bus services are provided directly to train connections.

Consider alternatives such as carpooling, walking or cycling to GO stations, or try GO's kiss & ride drop-offs (but please be careful who you kiss before you ride!).

Sit back and enjoy the ride on GO Transit and avoid all those parking and traffic congestion blues! Plus, you'll be saving a little "green" and helping our environment at the same time. *GO green ... it makes sense and cents!*



Important holiday service changes

GO Transit will be adjusting service this holiday season with more early-afternoon trains and buses on December 22 and 29, and special late-night service on New Year's Eve. On December 25 and January 1, GO will operate Sunday schedules. On December 26, GO will operate Saturday schedules. Check GO's website or call GO before you ride, and have a safe holiday.