

## Shelburne Police kick off the annual 'Stuff-a-Cruiser' donation campaign

Written By PAULA BROWN

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Police Services (SPS) collected donations for the first night of its annual 'Stuff-a-Cruiser' toy and food campaign, last Friday (Dec. 4) and will be back to collect more on Dec. 11.

'The response from this great community we serve was truly impressive. Even during these challenging times, the community has taken the time to support those in need,' stated SPS Sgt. Paul Neumann following the first donation night. 'We were set up at Tim and Heather's No Frills this evening and filled the police trailer about three quarters full with groceries, toys, and household items.'

Neumann added that the local police service had over \$1000 worth of cash and gift cards donated.

The annual 'Stuff-a-Cruiser' event has been a tradition held by Shelburne Police for around two decades, and is run by officers volunteering their time. The event looks to collect items to give to both the Salvation Army Food Bank and Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS).

'Even though there's COVID-19 and even though we're about to become OPP, we feel the need in the communities [has] never been greater in this 20 years,' Sgt. Neumann told the Free Press. 'We have a lot of families struggling, stuck at home, and not having their usual, so anything we can do to help out those families or those people that are alone - giving them some cheer, is what we're after.'

Shelburne Police are looking for donations of non-perishable food items, cash donations and gift cards, while new toys in their original packaging and new clothes are being accepted. Gift cards and cash donations are being encouraged this year, due to COVID-19.

SPS note that the gift card and cash donations make it safer for DCAFS and the Salvation Army to distribute.

Continuing with the annual event despite COVID-19, Sgt. Neumann said, 'I hope it's, it's a reminder to them that people are still out there.'

SPS will be collecting donations on Dec. 11 between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. outside of the Foodland/ Giant Tiger plaza.