

Toys for Tickets a go



Toys for Tickets a go. (Left to right) Mayor Doug Craig, Coun. Pam Wolf, Coun. Linda Whetham, Coun. Ben Tucci and Dave Maidment, manager of parking operations for the City of Cambridge, launch the Tickets for Toys program at Cambridge City Hall yesterday. *Greg MacDonald, Times Staff*

November 18, 2009

Cambridge council is showing it has a heart after approving a new parking ticket program.

People receiving parking tickets in Cambridge will soon have a new payment option – cash, cheque, debit, credit card or toy.

On Monday, council approved Toys for Tickets, a pilot project which will give the Salvation Army, Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank and Cambridge Firefighters Basket Fund a helping hand this Christmas. The Toys for Tickets program will allow people with a parking ticket to pay their fine with a toy that will go to a needy child this Christmas.

“This is going to be a tough Christmas for a lot of families and this is one way we can try to help out,” said Dave Maidment, city manager of parking operations.

People who get a parking ticket between Dec. 1 and Dec. 15 may opt to provide a toy as payment for the fine. City staff will accept an unwrapped toy between Dec. 1 and Dec. 15 at city hall's, third floor transportation and public works counter. The only exception to the program is for disabled parking infractions.

The gift must be of equal value to the ticket or more, and a receipt for the item is required.

While parking in municipal parking lots in the downtown cores is free during December, parking officials believe there is a potential to receive about \$3,000 worth of toys during the Toys for Tickets campaign.

Cambridge may be the first community in Waterloo Region to offer the program, but it has been running in Kingston and Oshawa for a number of years.

This article is for personal use only courtesy of CambridgeTimes.ca - a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd.