

City toy drive on now

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Belt-tightening may be the watchword at city hall this year, but on Friday, Dec. 2 Mayor Rob Ford kicked off the City of Toronto's 2011 Toy Drive, inviting Torontonians to take part in a little seasonal largesse for children in need.

The city-sponsored event is hoping to generate literally heaps of gifts for children until Christmas. Ford, City Manager Joe Pennachetti and councillors Paul Ainslie and Sarah Doucette kicked off the drive putting down toys and other, more practical gifts under a tree in the rotunda at Toronto City Hall.

"I hope to see this small pile of gifts grow into a giant pile of toys. It's our goal to help make this holiday memorable for everyone," Ford said.

The initial gifts were a mixed bag, donated by councillors. They included a football - which the gridiron-mad mayor joked he would like to take home with him - and an electric razor, donated by a wag to commemorate Movember.

Other, more age-appropriate unwrapped gifts can be donated at civic centres during operating hours until Friday, Dec. 23.

The city noted in a news release there is typically a shortage of toys for boys and pre-teen boys and girls. Department and grocery store gift certificates are also welcome.



City toy drive on now. Ford Toy drive Staff photo/DAVID NICKLE

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