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GUESS WHO'S COMING TO TOWN? PAGE 20

Police services establish autism registry to support families, assist officers

An autism registry is being established to support people with autism and their families in instances where that person may come in contact with police. Participation in the registry is completely voluntary.

The Kawartha Lakes OPP and Kawartha Lakes Police Service are partnering with the Lindsay Asperger Autism Support Group, Community Living and Fenelon Falls Community Policing Group on the registry.

A media release from the police services says they were approached by a community group whose members expressed concerns about the potential for negative interaction with police, as people with autism often behave unpredictably, and can have a difficult time coping with situations.

The registry will have personal information about a person with autism, and the hope is that having access to the information will help with the safety of community members and officers.

The registry is open for any person who has autism, not just minor children.

A community presentation about the registry will be held Thursday, Nov. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Kawartha Lakes Police Service, 6 Victoria Ave. N., Lindsay.