



Windsor dentist turns Halloween candy into cash

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Dr. Michael Bencak has put a bounty on Halloween treats.

The day after Halloween, the dentist will be offering money, toothpaste and toothbrushes in exchange for children's extra Halloween candy. For the second year in a row, trick-or-treaters will receive \$1 per pound of candy at the Dental Optometric Centre from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The excess treats will be shipped to Canadian troops overseas.

"Basically, candy is almost like currency for children. They live for Halloween. For them to give this up, to support our troops, it means a lot," said Jennifer Sykes, office manager at DOC.

The idea for this program came from an American dentist. The program was created partly to reduce the huge amount of candy eaten by kids. Globally, sugar consumption by children is rising by about two per cent a year, which makes it difficult for kids to maintain healthy, cavity-free teeth. Candy can also lead to hyperactivity and weight gain.

Last year, DOC collected 500 pounds (227 kilograms) of candy, and is hoping to double that amount this year. Police officers will be attending the dental office today to help out. The child who brings in the most candy will get a backpack filled with school supplies and dental products.

All candy brought to the DOC must be unopened.

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