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 Director of Print Media

The PPAO spent the summer helping Bruno Gendron gear up for our annual golf tournament.

We have also been recovering from an exceptionally heavy workload during the first half of 2009. September is here and we are back in full force!

History of paramedicine

Lynea Finn has already started to sink her teeth into her new role as director of archives for the PPAO.

For the past several months, aside from having a healthy new baby boy, Lynea has been researching the history of paramedics in the City of Ottawa.

Lynea has been spending much of her time in the walls of the National Archives researching everything from the first paramedic calls to the role of funeral homes to the whereabouts of old ambulances.

Lynea has even managed to locate the city's very first ambulance — a horse-drawn buggy from 1890!

The work has been long and slow-going but has recently started to pick-up with paramedics donating all kinds of old equipment, photos and uniforms.

Lynea has plans to compile all her information into a book, which she hopes will be published in 2015 — the 125th anniversary of paramedics in Ottawa. We are working on finding a place for her incredible paramedic artefacts?

If you have anything you would like to donate to this project, please contact Lynea Finn at www.OttawaParamedics.ca.

Mothercraft Touch-a-Truck

One of the biggest annual events in Ottawa is something known as www.Mothercraft.com Touch-a-Truck at Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre.

This year, the paramedic component was put together by Andrew Whyte with the entire logistics specialty display being organized by Kris Kurs, Stephane Perras and Neil Martin.

Our exhibit was tied with the Canadian military for the largest and most diverse equipment display on site!

The event attracted thousands and thousands of spectators, many of them young moms looking to have their family photos taken with paramedics. Most TV news media were also on site to capture footage of this huge event. We posted dozens of pictures online at www.OttawaParamedics.ca in the photo gallery.

We would like to thank our volunteers: Andrew Whyte, Deanna Schofield, Dena O'Hara, Francis Brunet, Janie Gratton, Jean-Philippe Lambert Ste-Marie, Kelly Galerno, Kristopher Kurs, Natalie McEwen, Stéphane Perras, Stephanie Leson and Trish Kermath! You folks put on an absolutely fantastic public relations event!



DENA O'HARA recruits seven-year-old paramedics.



SOME OF OUR Touch-a-Truck Volunteers.



KIDS LOVED the Gator Unit.



HUNDREDS wanted tours and info.



DOZENS CHECK OUT the five different paramedic displays.



EVERY TYPE OF motorized paramedic unit was on display.

Anaphylaxis Support Group at HQ

A few years ago, the Ottawa Anaphylaxis Support Group (OASG) asked the PPAO to provide an information session to its members. The session went so well that the two groups have been working together on multiple projects ever since.

This June, we organized another information session at paramedic headquarters with a little extra thrown in.

While the parents were asking all kinds of questions about the role paramedics play in treating anaphylactic children, the kids were across the hall colouring pictures and a giant banner.

When the markers ran out, the children got to dress up in several pieces of the paramedic gear from daily uniforms to the helmet and even our Tyvek suits. The excited kids then put on quite a colourful and entertaining "fashion show".

We then divided into groups for a tour of the building. Everyone was able to explore our medications, emergency equipment, tour through an ambulance, the gator, a Paramedic Rapid Response Unit, the Emergency Support Unit, the Treatment and Rehab Unit and the decontamination bay. To wrap up the day, the OASG presented the PPAO with the fully-coloured banner and a cheque for \$250 as a thank-you.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the OASG, especially Karen Eck for all the hard work she put into organizing this event.

Thanks as well to our volunteers: paramedics Kelly Galerno, Sue Noël, Rob Wilson, Darryl Wilton and the most enthusiastic paramedic student we have ever seen, Dena O'Hara.

iDrive Road Safety DVD



As high school students were set to graduate this past June, Patrick Lamoureux helped launch a new project he has been working on over the last couple of years as a director with the Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa.

The PPAO worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation, Arrive Alive Ontario, Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving, Ottawa PARTY (Preventing Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) program, Ontario Provincial Police and Ottawa Public Health to create the Ontario iDrive video which can be viewed or ordered at www.iDriveOntario.ca.

This DVD helps Ontario high school educators raise awareness about the risks and consequences of aggressive and unsafe driving for drivers and passengers under 25 years old.

Patrick, who has previous experience as an Alberta EMT-A and who is currently a Communications Officer in Ottawa, is featured in key components of the video including the speeding segment with fellow members of the PARTY Program team.

The iDrive video was first released at Earl of March High School in west Ottawa and featured segments on driver distraction, crash trauma, excessive speeding, drowsy driving, impairment by alcohol and/or drugs, and seatbelt use.

Paramedics Andrew Whyte and Alexandra Hopkin were on hand to represent paramedics and answer multiple questions from students and media. Judging by the reaction from the Ottawa students, this bilingual video will be well received throughout Ontario. We also have copies of iDRIVE available on our video CDROM at www.OttawaParamedics.ca.

Congratulations Patrick! Exceptionally well done!

Sirens for Life Blood Drive

Each year, the PPAO participates in the Sirens for Life Blood Drive with the Cana-

dian Blood Services, Ottawa Paramedic Service, Ontario Provincial Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ottawa Police Service and Ottawa Fire Service.

This event attracts incredible media attention, as members of the public are encouraged to donate blood in the name of paramedics, police officers and firefighters.

This year, the event was at the Ottawa Police Headquarters and attended by paramedics Pierre Sabourin, Chantale Dumas and JP Trottier.

Enough blood was donated to save over 4,000 lives.

Esquire Magazine available online

The PPAO has been inundated with e-mails about Esquire Magazine's feature about the complexity of paramedicine written by award winning novelist Chris Jones.

A pile of newsprint media organizations ran stories about the article and it was even featured on CTV's Canada AM on July 28.

So paramedics received huge media hits all summer long!

The editors at Esquire have also asked the PPAO to compile thoughts from readers (good or bad).

So, we encourage everyone to please forward your questions or comments to mail@OttawaParamedics.ca.

The top five questions the PPAO received so far (in order of frequency):

Q: Is Esquire an Ottawa magazine?

A: As if this is the number one question!?!? No, Esquire is bigger than Time or Macleans. Esquire is an international magazine based in New York City and sold on magazine racks in pretty much every English speaking country you can think of. This is huge! A lot of you really need to get out more.

Q: How popular is Esquire magazine?

A: They have 30 million subscribers each month and sell millions more on newsstands. This is the most popular men's magazine on the planet. Esquire targets young males between 15 and 45 (in paramedic speak: our trauma segment).



AUGUST ISSUE of Esquire is available at www.ottawaparamedic.ca

Q: Where can I get a copy of the August 2009 issue of Esquire?

A: Good question. Most places in Ottawa sold out quick so good luck. If you would like to order a copy of the magazine, we have them available online at www.OttawaParamedics.ca in the Merchandise Area. Magazines ship the same day. You can also read the article at www.esquire.com/features/paramedic-training-0809.

Q: Why Esquire?

A: The PPAO has done a lot of really cool stuff since our inception including providing a paramedic to the Discovery Channel's *Survivorman* TV show and working with a local theatre company to develop a tear jerking play called *Disaster*. Promoting the profession is about hitting more audiences than those who watch the six o'clock news. Hence, Esquire.

Q: With mostly American readers, I wonder what paramedics in the U.S.A. think?

A: Good question. We were wondering too. Feedback has taught us the front-line job is extremely similar regardless of system. That being said, we have actually

received incredible feedback from U.S.A. paramedics.

Most of our American colleagues expressed admiration that paramedics have been exclusively recognized for our specialized education, skills and sophistication with absolutely no blurred lines between paramedics and any other emergency service providers. To sum up the feedback, paramedics across the globe have been taken back by the accuracy and realism captured by Esquire's very talented staff writer Mr. Chris Jones. Translation: Those U.S.A. paramedics: They loved it.

www.OttawaParamedics.ca



Niagara Paramedic Association

Our colleagues from the Niagara Chapter have had a very rough six months. If you've read past OPA News submissions, you'd realize that Niagara has had to deal with the loss of now two very dedicated and revered paramedics. First it was Paramedic Mark Mihalides, now our colleagues from Niagara are grieving the loss of Paramedic Andrew Middleton, a former NPA director.

Andrew (36) was a great supporter and advocate of our profession and a leader among many who strived for excellence in everything he did.

Andrew, a father of two children, Ian and Christian, and loving husband of Lynn, passed away the morning of Saturday, May 30, 2009 at St. Catharines General Hospital



surrounded by his family. We all mourn for his loss but know he finally rests in God's arms after his long courageous battle with cancer. Andrew was a dedicated paramedic for over 15 years. He enjoyed the great outdoors, canoeing and bicycling with his son Ian. In addition, Andrew was a chartered member of the esteemed Tartan Mafia and was very proud of his Scottish heritage.

Andrew will be lovingly remembered and greatly missed by all who shared in his life.

The NPA will be submitting a special tribute in the next edition of CEN.

Halton Region ACP goes on a Mission of Mercy to Haiti

ACP Grant Rumford and his family will be embarking on a truly awe inspiring journey this fall. Grant and his family will be leaving their comfort zone of Burlington and travelling to a mission compound in Haiti as part of a year long effort through FTC-Canada.

Grant will be volunteering his time in the compound's hospital and the surrounding areas as a paramedic. He approached his municipality with the hopes of procuring an old ambulance to have shipped to Haiti as well as supplies, furniture and clothing to help sustain his family of six while he's attending the mission.

In addition, the need for financial support is huge, as was mentioned earlier, Grant is volunteering his time, costs are