



Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa
300 March Road (4th Floor)
Ottawa, ON K2K2E2
emergency: 9-1-1
phone: 613-244-0333
e-mail: mail@OttawaParamedics.ca

OttawaParamedics.ca

Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa

By Suzanne Noël, BSc(Kin), ACP
Director of Print Media

Now that summer is over (the one week it lasted), the PPAO is back into full swing with many new projects on the go. Here's the latest:

Ottawa paramedics raise \$10,725 for Renee "Moose" Stocks

The annual Ottawa Paramedic Golf Tournament, which took place Wednesday September 3, 2008 at the Meadows Golf and Country Club on Hawthorne Road, raised \$10,725 for Renee "Moose" Stocks.

For those of you who don't know four-year-old Renée, she has been diagnosed with Glutaric Acidemia Type II, a rare genetic disorder that prevents her body from breaking down fats and protein; as well as Leukodystrophy, a white brain matter disease. Medication to treat this condition is not available in Canada and must be imported from Britain.

The family's medical expenses are over \$70,000 per year.

In his first year as director of Corporate Development with the PPAO, Bruno Gendron jumped right in and took over the role of golf tournament coordinator. Bruno did an absolutely outstanding job in pulling off the most successful local paramedic tournament in history. Even the seasoned, out-of-town golfers were impressed. Michel Chretien, chief of Prescott-Russell EMS told Bruno it was "the best tournament I've ever been to," while Frank Merrill, general manager of Ferno Canada, said he had been to



Above: Four-year-old Renee Stocks.
Right: Bruno Gendron and Darryl Wilton present the cheque for \$10,725.



many tournaments across Canada that cost twice as much, yet were not even half as good. Every VIP in attendance came forward to shake hands with Bruno and tell him the tournament was incredible. These people almost did back flips when they found out the Ottawa Paramedic Golf Tournament was put together by a handful of very dedicated volunteers. Thanks to some fantastic donations from our sponsors that included over

\$50,000 in prizes, every golfer was able to take home something special. Other golfers participated in our open auction and took home items such as an LCD TV, Blu-Ray DVD player, digital camera and even first class accommodations at the Fairmont Chateau Montebello.

The spirit of generosity was obvious throughout the night as several golfers donated their prizes back so they could be add-



Councillor Diane Deans, Councillor Eli El Chantiry, Councillor Peggy Feltmate, and Councillor Gord Hunter at the Paramedic Golf Tournament.

ed to the auction. Giuseppe "Pino" Federico, the winner of the 50/50 draw, even returned his entire cash winnings of \$375 so the total raised through the draw was \$750, while Darryl Wilton was able to raise \$1,360 through an open auction.

We would like to thank our volunteers Brenda Stocks, Zach Stocks, Mike Martins, Esther Crawley, Nadine Fillon, Hugo Nadeau, Cory Van Delst, Dulka McLellan, Frank Lalonde, Andrew Orchard, Joe Micucci and Mike Rice.

We would also like to thank all corporate sponsors (see www.ottawaparamedics.ca), golfers, non-golfers, City of Ottawa councillors (Diane Deans, Eli El-Chantiry, Gord Hunter, Peggy Feltmate and Rainer Bloess) and other VIPs in attendance including paramedic chiefs from across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec with a special mention to Manitoulin-Sudbury and Prescott-Russell paramedics. You all helped make this day a huge success!

Medic Alert works to assist paramedics

Darryl Wilton and I do a considerable amount of work with Anaphylaxis Canada and the Ottawa Anaphylaxis Support Group.

Through some national roundtable meetings, we have recently become acquainted with Illeana Ciurea who is the chief officer of Medical Affairs for MedicAlert.

Medic Alert has just launched a professional education section on their Website

that could be very useful for paramedics (www.medicalert.ca/en/professionals/how-emergency.asp).

Most paramedics read MedicAlert tags but there is much more information readily available by phone. All the medic needs to do is place a collect call by dialing "0" and then the 10-digit phone number on the tag.

Most don't take this additional step but it is highly recommended by MedicAlert as the info can be very valuable and they would like paramedics to become more acquainted with their phone system so we can help teach ED staff.

Chantale Dumas, our director of education, was tasked with reviewing the phone system for the PPAO and providing feedback to members. She discovered that calling the hotline could provide great information for patients with language barriers, dementia, post-ictal periods or other situations where time is on the medic's side.

Once calling the hotline, the caller is asked to identify the pt and confirm his or her identity. After this has been completed, the operator can provide information such as medical history, a full medication list and even phone numbers of next-of-kin. This information is usually current as it is updated on an annual basis.

Although MedicAlert now offers very comprehensive information to front-line paramedics, Chantale Dumas was able to identify that the in true life-threatening load-and-go situations, the process was not rapid enough.

Please feel free to use the MedicAlert phone system while on duty and share info about how it all works and whether or not you find it works well.

We also have a direct line to the chief officer from MedicAlert, so if you have any recommendations for web enhancements, please feel free to send them through mail@ottawaparamedics.ca. MedicAlert is very excited about working to aid paramedics. We will tabulate responses and channel them back to MedicAlert, ensuring participants are identified for their contributions.

Award winners

This summer, the PPAO executive nominated several Ottawa Paramedic Service employees for the annual Ontario Paramedic Association awards which were presented at the Paramedicine 2008 conference in Peel. We are happy to announce that everyone who was nominated was accepted to receive an award.

Congratulations to the following Ottawa Paramedics:

21 OPA Long Service Awards (with more to come next year as we complete research on over 350 members):

Andre Gignac, Blake Rankin, Donna Duff, Doug Ryan, Ed Ousten, Frank McGregor, Garth Tourangeau, Hilton Radford, Jean Lauzon, John Palma, Ken Fowke, Michel Verdon, Michael Henry, Mike Cross, Robert Page, William Bennett, Robert Davidson, Robert Brunet, Steve Hallam, Robert Ashfield and Paul Seguin.

5 OPA Appreciation Awards:

Annik Allard, Rob Wilson, Francois Cote, Steve Hallam and Norm Robillard.

2 OPA Exemplary Service Awards:

Michel Verdon and Suzanne Noel.

1 OPA Amanda Finch Memorial Award:

Alexandra Hopkin.

Disaster wins award

Remember the play *Disaster* that the PPAO provided technical advisory to?

Well, we would like to congratulate playwright David O'Meara and the cast/crew of *Disaster* for picking up two awards at Ottawa's annual Golden Cherry Awards Ceremony. David O'Meara won for Playwright of the Year and *Disaster* won the award for New/Original Work of the Year as chosen by

members of Ottawa's arts community. Congratulations to all involved including the very talented cast and crew!

2008 Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial

The 2008 Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial was held on Parliament Hill September 14, 2008. Patrick Lamoureux attended on behalf of the paramedic association with a paramedic unit.

The Big Pull

Thanks to coordination efforts of Paramedics Micah Rietschlin and Reid Purdy, Ottawa medics showed their strength in a tug-of-war battle known as The Big Pull.

This annual event, held by the Ottawa Police in collaboration with the Ottawa Mission, pits team against team in a battle of strength and weight to raise funds for the Mission. Unfortunately, the medic team was beaten in both their pulls (by much larger competitors) but made us proud with an outstanding effort from the only co-ed team in the competition! At the end of the day, \$43,000 was raised for the Ottawa Mission. These funds



PPAO team getting dragged to defeat by a bunch of massive cops.

will be used to help the less fortunate obtain a G.E.D, thus increasing their self-confidence and gaining the skill sets necessary to be a success in the workplace. Thanks to all of our Big Pull participants!

Student CPR and AED training

The PPAO held its third annual CPR/AED training for first year paramedic students this past September. Advanced Public Education officer Alexandra Hopkin instructed two full classes of students from Algonquin College, delivering over 60 new certified CPR/AED providers to the community.

This year, the students were able to gain some first hand knowledge of the importance of community CPR providers and paramedic intervention thanks to an appearance by cardiac arrest survivor Marianne Cuhaci.

Marianne suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while driving her car with her daughter, Anna McCorriston. Anna, who was nine years old at the time,



Algonquin students obtain their CPR and AED certification from PPAO.

managed to get their vehicle to stop at the side of the road after careering across several lanes of traffic. Two bystanders witnessed the event and immediately ran to help, administering CPR to Marianne until paramedics arrived. Paramedics were able to defibrillate Marianne's heart and provide ACLS medications, successfully completing the final steps in the chain of survival.

Marianne and Anna were able to speak to the students about the events of that day, explaining that without the help of bystanders, medics and hospital staff, life would have been extremely different for many people from that moment on. The class was extremely appreciative of the story Marianne and Anna shared, asking several questions and giving both women a loud round of applause at the end.

The PPAO would like to extend our sincere thanks to both Anna and Marianne and to our Paramedic volunteers Alexandra Hopkin, Micah Rietschlin, Andrew White and Dan Archambault.



The Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa team at the Big Pull.

www.OttawaParamedics.ca