



**PEEL PARAMEDICS** Patrick Chatelain (left) and Stephanie La Fiura (right) prepare to deliver an ambulance full of toys to Interim Place.

contact the Peel Paramedic Association at [info@peelparamedics.ca](mailto:info@peelparamedics.ca) or visit our website at [www.peelparamedics.ca](http://www.peelparamedics.ca).

**PPA Christmas Party**

This past holiday season was the first for the PPA to host the Para-

medic Christmas Party and the proceeds went to the Lung Association. This year \$170 was raised and tickets were sold out! Congratulations to the committee for a great party. The paramedics are looking forward next year's party!

**Ontario Trillium Foundation**

To continue on the topic of money, this year the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ontario government, has approved our budget request for approximately \$20,000. This budget will pay for items to provide support in our promotion of our current programs and public safety initiatives. The Peel Paramedic Association would like to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their continued support.

**Paramedicine 2008**

This year's Paramedicine conference is in Mississauga. Planning is ongoing and the website is changing to reflect items as they come together during this time. Please reserve the time to come down and continue to check the website for updates at [paramedicine2008.com](http://paramedicine2008.com).



**Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa**

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**Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa**

By Suzanne Noël, BSc KIN, CFC, PCP, Interim Director of Print Media

The PPAO Executive kicked off 2008 with a pile of work on this year's agenda!

We have a lot of new developments underway and we are very proud of the hard work many Ottawa Paramedics put in on their days off to help make this chapter strong. Here is an overview of some of the important projects we have been working on—everything from gift ideas to National Paramedic Week.

**H.E.L.P Fund—Year In Review**

Just over one year ago, Ottawa paramedic Steve Hallam created the Helping Every Local Paramedic Fund (HELP) to assist coworkers in times of need. Thanks to the outstanding support of contributing medics, this program had been an enormous success!

So far, the fund has provided money for home renovations to improve disability access, contributed to the expensive medical care of a medic's daughter with a severe health condition and provided numerous cards and flowers for medics and families experiencing losses or injuries.

The response from individuals receiving this financial assistance and support has been overwhelming. This fund has been so successful there have been numerous requests from paramedic associations across Canada who are interested in creating their own HELP Fund.

The PPAO would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this fund by making monthly donations, organizing poker and sports tournaments, running hockey pools, volunteering time or collecting event-specific donations. These initiatives are extremely encouraging as it displays a willingness on everyone's part to help ourselves.



### THE PPAO HELP FUND LOGO.

The HELP Fund truly embraces the concept of community and that is what paramedics are all about. Thanks to the HELP Fund, we no longer need to rely on last minute pass-the-hat campaigns. The HELP Fund allows us to continue to build resources so we are ready to respond to crisis. The most important detail to note is paramedics who already benefited from the HELP Fund would have never been able to forecast that they would one day require assistance.

Although the HELP Fund is still in its infancy, we are proud to announce that 25 per cent of medics are already HELP Fund contributors with individual monthly donations ranging from \$1 to \$40. It is our goal to have every member make monthly contributions to the HELP Fund by the end of 2008.

We encourage you to contribute to this worthwhile cause by enrolling as a monthly Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) contributor, donating via the PPAO website or dropping a HELP Fund cheque in the PPAO box at HQ.

If you would like more information on the HELP Fund please contact Steve Hallam at [helpfund@ottawaparamedics.ca](mailto:helpfund@ottawaparamedics.ca).

### PPAO Membership Dues

For those of you who are not enrolled in the Pre-Authorized Debit program, your 2008 membership fees are now due. It is highly recommended you register for PADs on the monthly, semi-annual or annual program.

Your PPAO website account will remain inactive until your fees are up to date. This means no more access to our very popular interactive tools such as the Shift Exchanger.

Renewals for 2008 are automatic for members currently on the PAD program. By the time you receive this edition of *Canadian Emergency News*, you will have already received your 2007 tax receipt and 2008 membership package in the mail.

### Gift Ideas

Looking for an original gift for that hard-to-buy-for person?

Why not browse our website for para-

medic gift ideas. From pens to hats to model ambulances, you can order online and have your gift delivered by mail or by hand in a matter of days.

We have also finalized our PPAO embroidery design with Mark's Work Warehouse so you can have the PPAO logo embroidered on most Mark's gear purchased in store. If you have suggestions for merchandise you would like to see offered, please contact Sue Noel at [printmedia@ottawaparamedics.ca](mailto:printmedia@ottawaparamedics.ca).

### Peer Recognition Awards

The PPAO would like to congratulate Ottawa medics Sue Noel and Jan Woods who both received a City of Ottawa Community Service Award.

The award is presented to city employees who have made an outstanding contribution of time and effort while off-duty to a project benefiting the community. Jan and Sue were

nominated by their peers in thanks for the many hours they have volunteered in the community on behalf of the PPAO.

During the month of January, the PPAO also submitted Peer Recognition Award nominations for another eight hardworking individuals who regularly volunteer countless hours to promote the paramedic profession.

The PPAO is also in the process of compiling numerous OPA award nominations for the Paramedicine 2008 conference from September 12-14 in Mississauga, Ontario.

### Have You Ever Been Assaulted on Duty?

Several months ago, Canadian legislation passed a bill that made it a criminal offence to assault a firefighter on duty. Since then, PPAO President Darryl Wilton has been working hard to convince the government to draft a sister bill for paramedics.

Darryl's first step was to submit a request



## WEB SITE MERCHANDISE FEATURES

**OttawaParamedics.ca**

We would like to feature the following merchandise items from our OttawaParamedics.ca web site shopping cart:



#### Diecast Model Paramedic Unit

Makes a great gift. This 1:32 scale Ottawa Paramedic Unit diecast model is locally manufactured by Custom Diecast Cruisers.

**\$55.00**



#### Pens (5 Pack)

5 pack of pens - Medium tip, legal black ink, BIC pen with OttawaParamedics.ca logo on all sides

**\$4.00**



#### White Ottawa Paramedic Ball Cap

High quality adjustable "Ottawa Paramedic 9-1-1" ball cap with golf logo. White with grey lettering.

**\$20.00**

PPAO merchandise featured this month.

to the federal government to draft a private member's bill to make it an indictable criminal offence for a paramedic to be assaulted while on duty. He also invited the Ontario Paramedic Association and the Paramedic Association of Canada to initiate a nationwide lobby initiative and wrote a petitioning letter that medics across Canada could sign and submit to their respective MPs in support of the new legislation.

Many paramedics responded and contacted their MPs. President Wilton has followed up with a number of MPs in the Ottawa region and across Ontario, including MP Mario Silva, who was responsible for drafting the first piece of legislation on behalf of firefighters across Canada.

All this lobbying and letter writing has resulted in great news. MP Mario Silva's office has confirmed that he has introduced a private member's bill into parliament that has been designated Bill C-495. If made into law, this bill will make it an Indictable Criminal Offence to assault a paramedic who is on duty.

As defined by Canadian Law, an Indictable Criminal Offence in Canada is an offence which is more serious than those which can proceed by summary conviction. It is the Canadian equivalent to the USA felony. Murder and treason are examples of crimes committed in Canada which would be indictable offenses. These crimes are usually tried by federally-appointed judges and carry heavy sentences.

You should all be very proud this national initiative was started right here in Ottawa.

Please remember to send MP Mario Silva (<http://www.mariosilva.ca/> or [silva.m@parl.gc.ca](mailto:silva.m@parl.gc.ca)) or your own MP a thank-you and feel free to elaborate on why this bill is important to you as it still has a long way to go before it might become law.

If you want the background info on Bill C-495, please check the Initiatives/Lobbying link (<http://www.ottawaparamedics.ca/lobbying.asp>) on the [www.OttawaParamedics.ca](http://www.OttawaParamedics.ca) website.

**National Paramedic Week 2008**

As you know, National Paramedic Week always takes place during the third week of May. This year, falling back on our

duty to endorse injury prevention strategies, the PPAO will be promoting the message "Accident is not a word".

Between now and National Paramedic Week, Director of Media Relations Rob Wilton will focus PPAO efforts on politely correcting the media when the wrong language is used and will provide the media with suitable alternatives. Rob will educate the media about why the term "accident" is inappropriate and should be replaced with words like "crash", "collision" or "incident". The PPAO is also able to back our suggestions with bilingual versions of the official Thesaurus of Injury Prevention Terminology which was obtained by President Darryl Wilton from SmartRisk Canada.

Chris Bugelli, a new addition to PPAO Interim Directorship, has been tasked with creating an information campaign that will lead up to National Paramedic Week. The PPAO will be providing the media and public with reminders about some of the most dangerous components of our job—motorists who do not know how to properly yield to emergency vehicles during all three phases of a call (response, scene treatment and transport).

**1. Response**

We are going to show the media examples of how poor driving limits our ability to arrive at life-threatening emergencies quickly. If paramedics have to negotiate multiple poor drivers on the way to a call, each occurrence might only be worth additional seconds, but it is the combination of all of these occurrences that adds minutes to each scene re-

sponse. It is the cumulative impact of these occurrences that can make the difference between life and death in an emergency and stop paramedics from reaching the City of Ottawa's response time objective of 8 minutes and 59 seconds on Code 04 life threatening emergencies.

**2. Scene Treatment**

While paramedics are on scene at the side of a highway, paramedics are at their most vulnerable. We want the public to follow Ontario's "Move Over" law by slowing down and leaving a completely empty lane between emergency workers and themselves. We are also going to remind motorists not to park near ambulances—especially near the back doors.

**3. Transport**

The third aspect of our job is one that motorists rarely consider. When paramedics have a critical patient on board, we are often using intravenous medications, handling needles and providing very invasive life-saving skills which can only be administered properly while we are unbelted and standing. If inattentive motorists cause the paramedic operating the ambulance to perform any sudden manoeuvres, it is certain to cause severe injury to the paramedic providing patient care and have a detrimental impact on patient outcome.

After covering each of these three components of a call, we will offer tips and tricks along with video aids to motorists so they can feel confident and make appropriate decisions when paramedics are approaching with lights or sirens activated.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**OttawaParamedics.ca**

During the month of December 2007, the secure Member area at OttawaParamedics.ca had the following to report:

- 542 logins in the secure Member area
- 1417 pages viewed in the secure Member area
- The Think Tank was accessed 515 times to be read
- The Think Tank had 19 new comments added
- The Special Event Bookings page had 8 new events booked
- The Shift Exchanger had 34 newly advertised shifts added
- The Shift Exchanger had advertised shifts viewed 305 times

DECEMBER 2007 web statistics from PPAO.

**www.OttawaParamedics.ca**