



# PROFESSIONAL PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA L'ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONNELLE DES PARAMEDICS D'OTTAWA

a proud chapter of the Ontario Paramedic Association

**OttawaParamedics.ca**

## **Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa**

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By the time this edition of CEN arrives in your mailbox, the PPAO will be wrapping up our election process and the Leafs will have lost to the Sens three times.

So, what are we up to this fall? We are looking forward to having a board of newly elected and re-elected representatives carry our paramedic association to the next level. The PPAO has come a long way since 2003 but there is still much work to be done.

## **Brand New Member Benefits**

Thanks to tons of hard work by PPAO President Darryl Wilton, all members will soon have another set of benefits coming their way in our members-only password protected privilege pages at [www.OttawaParamedics.ca](http://www.OttawaParamedics.ca).

The best part is that these new benefits are designed to save members money!

The first section will be called "Deals for Paramedics." This privilege page will provide members with information about businesses offering deals to Ottawa paramedics. We have everything from national businesses like Oakley, provincial businesses like North City General Insurance Brokers and local businesses like Henry's Photography Shop. Yannick

Roussel, Director of Special Projects has been out hunting for more businesses to offer paramedics excellent deals in exchange for customer loyalty.

The next section will be called "Entrepreneur Paramedics." This privilege page will provide members with information about individual Ottawa paramedics who have side businesses that could be useful to the PPAO membership. We have a very diverse and talented workforce, so we are sure this unique information page will continue to grow.

If you are a PPAO member and know of a business that should be added, edited or removed from our new listings, please use the e-mail link at [www.OttawaParamedics.ca](http://www.OttawaParamedics.ca) to notify your executive.





### Paramedics Partner with M.A.D.D.

The PPAO began a new partnership this fall to help prevent impaired driving and create public awareness about the impact this can have on people's lives. Ottawa paramedics joined forces with MADD at their first annual Strides for Change Walk and Run.

Several volunteer paramedics manned the PPAO's public relations display and educated families and the media about the risks of impaired driving. Paramedics also talked about how these traumatic tragedies affect paramedics emotionally and psychologically.

Many people were very impressed with the professionalism of paramedics and quite intrigued with our equipment, level of training and scope of practice.

Thanks to volunteers Patrick Lamoureux, Hans Oberholzer, Jeff Dodge, Yvonne Malbasha, Andrew Gleeson, Lynea Gould and others, the event was a huge success and future collaborations between these two groups are already in the works.

### Life Event Cards Available

The new oversized "Life Event Cards" developed by President Darryl Wilton have been widely used since their inception this year.

These extra large 11"x17" cards have been signed and delivered to recipients who have had new babies, suffered a loss in the family, moved on to other endeavours or who just needed some "get well soon" wishes.

However, some events slip through the cracks and we are concerned that medics and/or families might not be recognized. After all, the PPAO executive does not have access to any records of who is having babies, who is sick or injured or who has suffered a loss. Knowing this, the PPAO executive has been trying to strike a balance between ensuring nobody gets missed and to make sure that an individual's right to privacy is not compromised. To do this, we have created the following process.

**STEP 1**—Our Help Fund Committee can be notified at [helpfundgroup@ottawaparamedics.ca](mailto:helpfundgroup@ottawaparamedics.ca) by anyone aware of a significant event in the life of a co-worker.

**STEP 2**—Our Help Fund Committee members Steve Hallam or Deanna Schofield will contact the paramedic or other staff member and confirm that an event has happened and seek verbal authorization to deploy a card.

In the meantime, we will be sensitive to people's needs and show them the support of their peers. Your feedback is appreciated on how the process works out.

To date, these cards have been greatly appreciated by all receiving them so please help support your peers by ensuring the Help Fund Group is notified for any card-worthy events.

If you are from another paramedic service and would like to order some oversized Life Event Cards, please contact the PPAO through our website at [www.OttawaParamedics.ca](http://www.OttawaParamedics.ca).

### PCP Students Learn to Shock

Continuing on the successful initiative from last year the PPAO again certified all Ottawa first year PCP students in CPR and defibrillation. This fall, all first year paramedic students from La Cité Collégiale and Algonquin College were offered free training and certification in CPR and defibrillation.

The idea behind having all students certified was to provide a clear baseline for where the profession of paramedicine begins. By being certified in CPR and AED use, future paramedics receive the same medical training as police officers and firefighters even before beginning the paramedic program. Councillors and the media learn that once enrolled in the Primary Care Paramedic program, the students then begin two years of very intense, very specialized and very expensive training.

We would like to thank our Director of Media Relations, Rob Wilson, and PCP Student Alexandra Hopkin for their efforts in coordinating this very important educational event.

### Another PPAO/OASG Collaboration

The strong relationship between the PPAO and the Ottawa Anaphylaxis Support Group (OASG) continued this October with collaboration in the National Allergy and Asthma Information Association's Inspire Conference.

Held at La Cité Collégiale on October 21, this one-day workshop brought together everyone from kids with allergies to medical professionals. Among the many displays, paramedics Hans Oberholzer, Natalie Labelle and Yannick Roussel (Code the Dog) coordinated our participation in the event and showcased paramedic equipment to kids and families of all ages.

Thank you to all of our paramedic volunteers and to the OASG for inviting us to this great event.

### OttawaParamedics.ca Donations

If you have recently browsed [www.OttawaParamedics.ca](http://www.OttawaParamedics.ca) you may have noticed changes to the donations section. Instead of making a general PPAO donation, those looking to give now have options on where they would like their money to go.

Donators can now choose (1) All Volunteer Community Initiatives, (2) the Helping Every Local Paramedic Fund or (3) the PPAO Honour Guard to be the beneficiaries of their gift. There is also an option to specify how you would like the donation spent. For example, the funds could be donated to help promote AED awareness and training in the community.

To check out the changes, visit our website at [www.OttawaParamedics.ca](http://www.OttawaParamedics.ca) and click on the Donation link.

### Paramedics in the Community

Throughout the summer of 2007, many paramedics volunteered for community events in order to increase public awareness and educate the public. The attached picture features paramedics Chantale Dumas and Catherine Du Puy providing a group demonstration at a community drop-in camp.



**OTTAWA** Paramedics Chantale Dumas and Catherine Du Puy volunteering at a community drop-in camp.



