

PROFESSIONAL PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA



Newsletter

APRIL - MAY 2005

PPAO SUPPORTS PARAMEDIC STUDENTS

Darryl Wilton, President

Beginning this spring, the PPAO has started to become very involved with our local colleges.

PPAO President Darryl Wilton and Director of Professional Development Stan Morrow put together a training initiative between the PPAO, Algonquin College, La Cité Collégiale and Ottawa Paramedic Service. Beginning this fall, all paramedic program students will receive free CPR and DEFIB training on their first day of class. The free training will be provided by the Ottawa Paramedic Service Program Development team.

This is an important initiative because it will offer a clear indicator to the public that paramedic students will begin their program with qualifications that are equal to or greater than other emergency service providers and then will continue through a very complex and specialized 2 year education program.

In addition, Darryl Wilton and Annie Grégoire are in the process of building a powerful "job search" package that will only be available to students who are members of the PPAO. The package will contain preprogrammed templates and databases of every paramedic ser-

vice in Ontario. When used with Microsoft Office, students will be able to automatically generate customized cover letters, resumés, envelopes, labels and other tools that automatically insert the information they need, right where they need it.

So, how will the students find out about all of these goodies?

The PPAO has created massive bilingual posters (36" x 56") that are designed to market our chapter directly to students. These jumbo full colour posters will be put up at both local colleges as well as our new headquarters. The PPAO will

also provide students from both colleges with a very interesting campaign drive every spring and fall.

If students are interested in joining the PPAO, our special student membership rate is only \$39 per year and that includes membership in the Ontario Paramedic Association and Paramedic Association of Canada, access to all PPAO events, free access to the members area of the PPAO website a subscription to "Canadian Emergency News" magazine, the PPAO newsletter, fully paid Car Seat Inspector training and so much more!

PPAO WELCOMES NEW DIRECTORS

Darryl Wilton, President

I would like to congratulate two paramedics who will be joining the PPAO Executive as Interim Directors until the next election.

Greg Furlong - Interim Director of Support Services
support@ottawaparamedics.ca 613-244-0333 ext 7

Annie Grégoire - Interim Director of Membership Services
membership@ottawaparamedics.ca 613-244-0333 ext 8

The PPAO has already had 5 paramedics come forward to apply for the Treasurer position. As a result, Vice-President Scott Stephens will coordinate the Treasurer competition which will take place over the next few weeks. We expect the process to be quite competitive as all applicants have impressive backgrounds. One applicant has run his own business for years, one has been a treasurer before and one is a Level-IV Certified General Accountant. We expect to have the process completed by May 01, 2005 and will announce the new treasurer in our next newsletter

**DO YOU WANT TO
BECOME A
CHILD CAR SEAT
INSPECTOR?**

**THE PPAO IS OFFERING FREE
TRAINING SESSIONS IN
APRIL AND MAY**

**ALL FEES ARE PAID FOR BY
AN EXTERNAL SPONSOR**

**1st Session
April 27th & 28th**

**TO SIGN UP FOR FREE TRAINING,
SEND US AN EMAIL THROUGH THE
WWW.OTTAWAPARAMEDICS.CA
WEBSITE**

GOLF RULES!

CLYDE FLINN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The late Clyde Flinn was a paramedic with the Ottawa Carleton Regional Ambulance Service some time ago. Unfortunately, Clyde is no longer with us as he lost his fight with cancer. This golf tournament was started 15 years ago in an effort to raise money and public awareness for ROGER'S HOUSE and the ROGER NEILSON FOUNDATION.



RAISE THE ROOF
for



DETAILS

Meadows Golf and Country Club

Mon Aug 22nd, 2005 (08:30hrs)
4335 Hawthorne Road

GRAND PRIZE

2005 INFINITY G35

Donated by Graham Nissan

If you can shoot a hole-in-one par 3

Contact: Rod Hamberger

Fee: \$75.00 (make cheques payable to PPAO)

Registration Deadline: July 15, 2005



OttawaParamedics.ca

EMS WEEK (MAY 15 - MAY 21)

Steve Dodge, Director of Communications

EMS Week will run from May 15 to May 21, 2005. The PPAO intends to do as much as we can to promote the profession locally. We are already preparing to deliver some different messages and plan to showcase a different Controlled Medical Act to the media each day in an effort to enhance public awareness. We will also give out several public awards during EMS week and will host a massive public awareness display in the Byward Market on May 20, 21, 22. If you are interested in helping out with EMS week, please contact Steve Dodge through the PPAO website

EARLY RETIREMENT FOR PARAMEDICS

Darryl Wilton, President

The paramedics in Ottawa are pleased to announce that we contributed to the national lobby effort that brought together the Paramedic Association of Canada and the Ambulance Paramedics of British Columbia (CUPE873) as well as many other locals in an effort to finally have paramedics recognized as a Public Safety Occupation (PSO) under federal Income Tax Act legislation in Canada. On March 07, 2005, all of the hard work finally paid off!

On the heels of police officers and fire fighters who have been part of the PSO designation for the last 15 years, paramedics finally qualify for PSO inclusion which will see our normal retirement age reduced from 65 to 60 years old with no penalty. In addition, the PSO designation officially recognizes the paramedic profession as being critically important to the safety of the public.

It is without a doubt that the learning curve associated with this new designation will be as enormous as the discussions that will ensue between our employers, unions, pension plans and associations as all four groups work together in an effort to figure out how this will impact all 17000 paramedics in Canada.

In preparation for Paramedicine 2005 (Ottawa - Canada), the Ontario Paramedic Association's premiere educational paramedic conference, we are currently trying to locate an expert speaker who can educate paramedics about what the legislation means, how it affects pension contributions, how to calculate and finance buy back options, and how to forecast retirement options.

There is a lot of work to be done and we intend to join forces with the Toronto Paramedic Association to become leaders in this area.

BLOOD DRIVE IN HONOUR OF OUR 9-1-1 EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

What's your *type?*

Find out what your blood type says about you...

In Honour of our 911 Responders
Whether responding to a multi-car pileup on the Queensway or the panicked call to help a heart attack victim, the 911 telephone service becomes a lifeline for thousands of people in our area every year. Take a little of your time and honour their commitment to our community by attending the launch of a blood drive in their honour and get typed.

Blood Typing Booth to Launch the Blood Drive in Honour of 911 Services:
City Hall
Jean Pigot Hall
Tuesday, March 29, 2005
Ceremony 11:35 -11:45 a.m.

Starting at 11:30 a.m., we will kick-off the Blood Drive in Honour of 911 Services by blood typing the CHEO Bear, members of the Emergency and Protective Services Board, and the public. There will also be displays and booths from the participating services.

For more information, call:
1 888 2 DONATE

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DU SANG
Blood. It's in you to give.

Steve Dodge, Director of Communications

March 29 - May 18, 2005

The Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa is embarking on an initiative with the Canadian Blood Services in an effort to raise awareness in the community about the importance of donating blood. Between March 29th and May 18th, members of the community can show their support for paramedics by donating blood and signing a special "In Honour" card at a donor clinic in their area. There is more information, including a list of all clinics, available at www.OttawaParamedics.ca.

Next blood donor clinics:

- **Monday, April 18th** (Bloodmobile)
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
2210 Walkley Road (8:30-12:00)
- **Friday, April 22nd** (Bloodmobile)
Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre
2525 Carling Avenue (8:30-12:00)
- **Monday, April 25th** (Bloodmobile)
Standard Life Building
280 Slater Street (8:30-12:00)
- **Tuesday April 26th** (Bloodmobile)
Public Service Alliance of Canada
233 Gilmour Street (8:30-12:00)
- **Tuesday, April 26th**
Tudor Hall (Hall D)
3750 Bowesville Road (12:00-17:30)
- **Thursday, April 28th** (Bloodmobile)
Dept. of Justice
284 Wellington Street
(08:30-11:30 & 13:00 - 15:00)
- **Thursday, April 28th**
RA Centre
2451 Riverside Drive (Canada Room)
(09:00-15:00)
- **Thursday, May 3rd** (Bloodmobile)
Maritime Helicopter Project via
Venus CFB Rockliffe (Annex B, East Trailer)
(8:30 - 12:00)

Steve Dodge, Director of Communications
communications@ottawaparamedics.ca
613-244-0333

DID YOU KNOW??

BLOOD TYPES AMONG ALL CANADIANS

O+ = 39%	A+ = 36%	B+ = 7.6%	O- = 7%
A- = 6%	AB+ = 2.5%	B- = 1.4%	AB- = 0.5%

APPROXIMATELY 3.5% OF ALL CANADIANS DONATE BLOOD EVERY YEAR - THIS TRANSLATES TO 800,000 UNITS. BY DECEMBER 2005 CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES HOPES TO INCREASE THIS TO A MINIMUM OF 5% OF ALL CANADIANS IN ORDER TO REACH THEIR TARGET OF 1 MILLION UNITS OF BLOOD COLLECTED EACH YEAR.

EVERY DONATION CAN SAVE UP TO 3 LIVES

YOU CAN DONATE 3 TYPES OF BLOOD PRODUCTS: WHOLE BLOOD / PLASMA / PLATELETS

OTTAWA CANADA Paramedicine 2005

SEPTEMBER 16 - 18, 2005

Darryl Wilton, President

Paramedicine 2005 (Ottawa – Canada) is the Ontario Paramedic Association's premiere educational conference and it will take place from September 16th to the 18th, 2005 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Ottawa. We will be joined by paramedics, dispatchers, students, physicians, nurses and other medical professionals from across Ontario and Québec.



This year, P2005 is being hosted by the Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa, in the heart of downtown Ottawa, at the luxurious Marriott Hotel. We have booked the entire conference floor at the Marriott Hotel in an effort to ensure that the massive vendor area and four large lecture rooms provide our participants with easy access to absolutely everything. Set amidst the trendy Sparks Street Mall, the Ottawa Marriott Hotel (100 Kent Street) is within walking distance of the Canadian Parliament Buildings, the popular Byward Market, the Elgin Street food district, plazas, museums and so much more.

Your P2005 committee has been working hard at putting together the best conference to ever hit Ontario. We have put together an extremely solid team that is being led by Elizabeth Anderson, our Executive Secretary & Conference Chair. In an effort to build a strong foundation for the best conference that Ontario has ever seen, Annie Grégoire, our Director of Membership Services has taken on the task of creating some of the best computerized database management and target marketing applications ever seen. Our Director of Political Affairs, Mike Cross, has also booked some very impressive and world renowned guest speakers and presenters. Our Director of Support Services, Greg Furlong and our Vendor Coordinator Matthew Hogan are working hard to fill the room with vendors and make sure that paramedics are blown away by the content and displays in our massive vendor area. Our Director of Professional Development, Stan Morrow, is also ensuring that all CME's at P2005 will be endorsed by Base Hospitals from across Ontario. The rest of our team includes an assortment of hard working paramedics including Andrew Gleeson, Scott Stephens, Tim O'Neill, Jean Olsson, Matt Smith, Rob Wilson, Julie Simard, Steve Dodge, Rhonda Kavanagh, Paul Morneau, Robert Brunet, Brian Peters, Valerie Jacques, Matthew Smith, Yvonne Malbasha, Bob Davidson, Sue Davidson and Robin Villeneuve and we are still

expecting the team to grow!

In an effort to coordinate emails associated with the conference, we have set up the following email accounts for Paramedicine 2005.

- P2005@ottawaparamedics.ca has been created to manage general emails associated with Paramedicine 2005 and is being maintained by Elizabeth Anderson.
- vendors@ottawaparamedics.ca has been created to manage the vendors who will be putting on displays at Paramedicine 2005 and is being maintained by Matthew Hogan.

If you haven't attended one of these conferences before, then you have been missing out on an absolutely amazing experience! The preconference events, guest speakers and banquet dinner are absolutely incredible!



PPAO HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Darryl Wilton, President

The second annual PPAO invitational hockey tournament brought together almost two dozen teams from across Ontario and Quebec on February 23rd and 24th. Our Special Event Committee Leaders Denis Gagnon and Cory Van Delst coordinated two full days of hard hitting hockey that was wrapped in equally hard hitting social activity!

In the end, the PPAO raised \$3000 for Roger's House which is being built to treat sick children at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Denis Gagnon presented a massive PPAO cheque to Roger's House on April 05, 2005.

The success of this tournament would not have been possible without the support of some very important sponsors. Alexander's Lower Deck Bar & Grill (www.alexanderslowerdeck.com), located in the heart of Ottawa's Byward Market provided a \$300 donation as well as an amazing location for our after party. Outrider Sports (www.outridersports.ca) provided over \$800 in donations and prizes for the tournament.

We were actually really surprised to receive media coverage on almost every local TV station. I guess they have been absolutely starving for anything – even bad hockey – since the NHL lockout!



THE DATABASE HEADACHE

Darryl Wilton, President

After 3 months of hard work, all problems associated with the OPA registry and PPAO payroll deductions have finally been resolved.

Just after Christmas, we discovered that the OPA was missing records for over 160 members of the PPAO. As a result, these members had not received their OPA card, "Canadian Emergency News" magazine or other benefits. In an effort to remedy this problem, Executive Secretary Elizabeth Anderson spent months cross referencing data between the PPAO master registry and OPA master registry. If you want to imagine what Elizabeth had to go through, picture two spreadsheets – one for the PPAO and one for the OPA. Each member has 22 lines of information added for them and the PPAO has about 350 members.

So, Elizabeth had to crunch 7040 lines of information in just three months. All of this was being done while a steady flow of address changes came in from the membership. Basically, Elizabeth went to pain staking lengths to make sure that all of the information shared between the OPA and PPAO is harmonious and accurate. She is also running the Car Seat Inspection Clinics, Paramedicine 2005, operating her own small business and even has two kids at home (Kevin, 3 and ACP Darren Anderson).

Once the OPA registry was fixed, Paramedic Caroline Villemaire spent weeks working on a project where she cross referenced every payroll deduction summary with the PPAO registry in an effort to isolate errors. One more point of interest is that Caroline is also quite busy with a baby on the way.

We cannot begin to tell you how much we appreciate all of the help because the Board of Directors is overwhelmed with work. It is because of these dedicated professionals who come forward to volunteer their time and skills, that the PPAO has been able to accomplish so much for the profession.

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PPAO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Darryl Wilton, President

Attention Communications Officers, Equipment Supply Technicians, Equipment Controllers and Administration Staff. We are excited to announce that Associate Member payroll deductions are now available for all non-paramedic City of Ottawa staff at \$3.25/pay (\$84.50/yr).

The Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa is already comprised of many more paid members than just paramedics. We also have Associate Members (non-paramedics), Student Members and Corporate Members. Each one of these members is entitled to many benefits including membership in the Ontario Paramedic Association and Paramedic Association of Canada, access to all PPAO events, free access to the members area of www.OttawaParamedics.ca, a subscription to "Canadian Emergency News" magazine, the PPAO newsletter, fully paid Car Seat Inspector training and so much more!

This summer, the PPAO also plans to put together a representation committee for CACC and the EST's. Each committee will be able to appoint a leader to sit with our Board of Directors as an Honourary Officer. These leaders will ensure the PPAO is able to address the concerns of everyone who contributes to the important service we provide to our patients.

If you need more information or would like to register for the PPAO, please visit www.OttawaParamedics.ca!

PPAO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Just a reminder that the PPAO Annual General Meeting is always scheduled to take place during EMS week. The AGM will be held at the Police Association (141 Catherine Street).

PPAO AGM

For platoons b, d, e & F
Tuesday May 17, 2005
19:00hrs - 21:00hrs

PPAO AGM

For platoons a, c, e & f
Wednesday May 18, 2005
19:00hrs - 21:00hrs

There will be a lot of very important information covered at this AGM. We highly recommend that all registered members attend. Please note that only full members can vote.

CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS

Elizabeth Anderson, Executive Secretary

The PPAO Car Seat Inspection Team has teamed up with the CHUM group (NEWRO, MAJIC100, 580CFRA, BOBFM, & TEAM1200) to provide Child Car Seat Inspections to the community. Part of our agreement will see the CHUM group providing Ottawa Paramedics with an enormous amount of media coverage as well as full sponsorship for our clinics.



We currently have 23 paramedics fully certified and trained. We are also excited to tell you that we just received funding from a community sponsor to train another 24 paramedics on April 27 & 28. All costs of the training are completely covered - including meals!

We will host 11 clinics during 2005 with the first one occurring on April 23rd. Meals and snacks will also be provided at each clinic.

To sign up for our next training session, please send an email to

secretary@ottawaparamedics.ca or contact us by using the email link on the www.OttawaParamedics.ca website.



MAJOR OVERHAUL TO WWW.OTTAWAPARAMEDICS.CA

Darryl Wilton, President

Beginning this month, we will implement Stage-III of our web development plan. This stage will unfold in three phases.

STAGE-III (PHASE A, B, C)

•PHASE A

First, the PPAO will contact 80 unpaid registrants in the MEMBERS area and asking them to either join the PPAO as a paid members or terminate their account. These unpaid registrants range from hospital staff to dispatchers to an assortment of city staff.

•PHASE B

The second phase will involve a programming overhaul of the members area in an effort to make it coincide with the new Registry Database that has been created by Annie Grégoire, our new Interim Director of Membership Services. Beginning in May 2005, the MEMBERS area of our web server will be much more powerful as it will share identical information to the PPAO Master Registry. By the time summer rolls around, any changes you make to your personal account on www.ottawaparamedics.ca will be automatically updated in our registry.

•PHASE C

The third and final phase of the new web development plan will shut off the automatic registration feature on our website. From that point on, each time someone attempts to register for a new MEMBERS account, the site will auto-

matically send an email to the Director of Membership Services for approval. If that person appears in our registry as a paid member, then authorization will be granted. If that person does not appear in our registry as a paid member, then they will be sent a generic email advising them to become a registered and paid member of the PPAO.

STAGE-IV

The fourth and final stage of the website will involve a major overhaul of the public side of the PPAO website. Paramedics Jean-Francois Cimon and Martin Thibeault are in charge of the PPAO's Official Languages Committee and they have been spending months working on translating the entire public side of our website to Français! If everything goes as planned, we expect to unveil the first ever bilingual paramedic website on planet earth at the Paramedicine 2005 conference to be held at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Ottawa this fall.

The costs associated with these changes will be paid by a corporate sponsor (North City General Home and Auto Insurance - Exclusive Program for Paramedics since 1981 - www.northcity.ca) in exchange for placing an advertising banner on our website for one year.

TEAM DIABETES UPDATE

Claudine Grégoire

I would like to thank everyone who supported my two fund raising events in an effort to raise \$6000 for Team Diabetes. Thanks to your support, I have been able to raise \$1686 so far! I would also like to thank everyone who made a pledge via the PPAO board in the Tremblay lunch room. Together, these people have accounted for an additional \$500 worth of pledges!

I'll be collecting money until June 15th which will be followed by a BBQ for those people who haven't had the opportunity to participate in events or make a donation. Would also like to thank Darryl Wilton for putting out the challenge to match his contribution of \$50!

Team Diabetes is a group of people that joined forces with the Canadian Diabetes Association to



raise money for diabetes research by participating in International Marathons (mine will be in Iceland). Last year, the Iceland team was comprised of 115 participants from across Canada who raised over \$700,000. In the last 5 years, team Diabetes has been able to raise over \$5,000,000 for research into the cure for Diabetes.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to representing the Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa in Reykjavik, Iceland!

BETH WINS GOLD!

Darryl Wilton, President

Beth Stanistreet just returned from George South Africa where she won 2 gold medals in the Canada versus South Africa Intercontinental Kickboxing Competition. Beth was competing in the 65 kg category where she was able to pull off 2 wins in only 3 rounds! Congratulations Beth!!

HOW ARE YOUR DUES DIVIDED ACROSS CANADA?

Darryl Wilton, President

The PPAO collects dues from four different membership levels. Regardless of the amount we collect at each level, we remit approximately 65% to the Ontario Paramedic Association (OPA) and then the OPA divvy's off a small amount of that to the Paramedic Association of Canada. Dues payments for each one of our members are made to the OPA every 2 months. The OPA collects over \$25000/yr from the PPAO. The dues break-downs are seen here:

LEVEL	EXAMPLE	TOTAL		LOCAL		PROVINCIAL		NATIONAL
FULL	PARAMEDICS ONLY	\$130.00/YR OR \$5/PAY	=	\$46	+	\$74	+	\$10
ASSOCIATE	COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS, EST's, EC's, ADMIN STAFF	\$84.50/YR OR \$3.25/PAY	=	\$19.50	+	\$65	+	FREE
STUDENT	PARAMEDIC PROGRAM STUDENTS	\$39.00/YR	=	\$14	+	\$25	+	FREE
CORPORATE	COLLEGES OR BUSINESSES	\$385.00/YR	=	\$135	+	\$250	+	FREE

Every full paramedic member or associate member who is on payroll deductions will be automatically renewed every year. There is no need to respond to requests from the Ontario Paramedic Association to renew your membership. The Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa is responsible for renewing your membership at the local, provincial and national levels.

OTTAWA CANADA Paramedicine 2005

September 16-18



Join us at the Ontario Paramedic Association's Premier Educational Conference and Exposition