



Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa /
L'Association Professionnelle Des Paramédics D'Ottawa

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Did You Know?

- The PPAO website is designed to provide you with a one-stop location for up-to-date local paramedic news.
- Over 24 hours a week goes into programming OttawaParamedics.ca.
- Minutes from every PPAO Board of Directors meeting get posted in the MEMBERS area.
- The MEMBERS area also contains the SHIFT EXCHANGER tool and a CALENDAR of important events.
- The PPAO runs a monthly publication in Canadian Emergency News magazine
- NEW!!! A new anonymous SURVEY tool is now in the MEMBERS area!!

Inside this issue:

- PPAO Memoriam Card Donation and Benevolent Society
- Paramedicine 2004 and 2005
- Payroll Deduction Update
- PPAO Website Enhancements
- Paramedic Lobby Days
- Invest in the Community
- Car Seat Inspection Clinics

Alice Martin Coroner's Inquest

On Tuesday September 07, 2004 at 14:00 hrs, the Alice Martin Coroners Inquest came to a close and the Coroners Jury released its verdict. The Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa was present for the proceedings and issued a formal media release as well as press and television statements to local and national news media (please see our MEDIA RELEASE section on the website for more info).

We played a very important role in ensuring that the media would not spin this event into something that could ultimately be detrimental to our profession. Over the next three days, PPAO President Darryl Wilton found himself the subject of several interview request from the media. All of the print media surrounding the inquest can be found at www.OttawaParamedics.ca.

The PPAO has a mandate to not par-

ticipate in labour issues. Therefore our position during this inquest was to voice the concerns of the patient and the profession. The union representing Ottawa Paramedic Service staff was responsible for legal council during the inquest. The PPAO feels that it is necessary to acknowledge the efforts of John McLuckie (CUPE503 union lawyer), Brian Moloughney (CUPE 503 paramedic union steward), and Denis Rondeau (CUPE503 communications union steward) for putting together such a strong case. The PPAO was witness to the precision and skill demonstrated by union lawyer John McLuckie as he was ultimately able to bring forward information that detailed how a major contributing factor to Alice Martin's death was the lack of funding, staff, technology and resources that are plaguing paramedics in Ottawa.

This is the first time that paramedics in Ottawa were able to participate in a process of this magnitude - a transparent process that revealed the critical condition that our system is operating in. Thanks to the endurance and strength exhibited by the family of Alice Martin over the last year, the recommendations from the Coroner's Jury will surely save hundreds of lives for years to come. The PPAO acknowledged the strength of the Alice Martin family during this long journey and the compassion they demonstrated towards the paramedics by providing them with a bouquet of flowers and a card signed by all paramedics who were involved with this tragic call. The Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa will continue to push for the resources that are necessary to save lives in the City of Ottawa.

Darryl Wilton, President

The Djamshid Popal Transfer

On August 04, 2004 at 08:00hrs, the Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa transferred Djamshid Popal to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto.

On July 20th, the Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa in conjunction with Ottawa Paramedic Service made an offer to CHEO to have a team of Advanced Care Paramedics volunteer their time and skills to transport Djamshid to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. The cost of this transport was paid by donations from paramedics who work for the City of Ottawa. It took many hours of education and negotiation with CHEO ICU in order to earn this transfer.

After weeks of tireless effort on behalf of Darryl Wilton, the Intensive Care Physicians at CHEO decided to transport Djamshid by land because

it is safer from a lung standpoint and our new paramedic units are designed to provide ideal access, equipment and resources for patients. The entire land team was comprised of Advanced Care Paramedic Stanley Morrow, Primary Care Paramedic Elizabeth Anderson, an Intensive Care Physician, an Intensive Care Nurse, an interpreter and Djamshid's father.

Paramedics in Ottawa are highly skilled and have a longstanding relationship with CHEO. We were very excited to have been chosen as the best possible provider for this important assignment. On an unprecedented scale, this story, generated by the PPAO, received local, provincial, national, live and even international media coverage on CNN.

Darryl Wilton, President



On August 4, 2004 paramedics Stan Morrow and Elizabeth Anderson transferred Djamshid Popal from CHEO to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto.

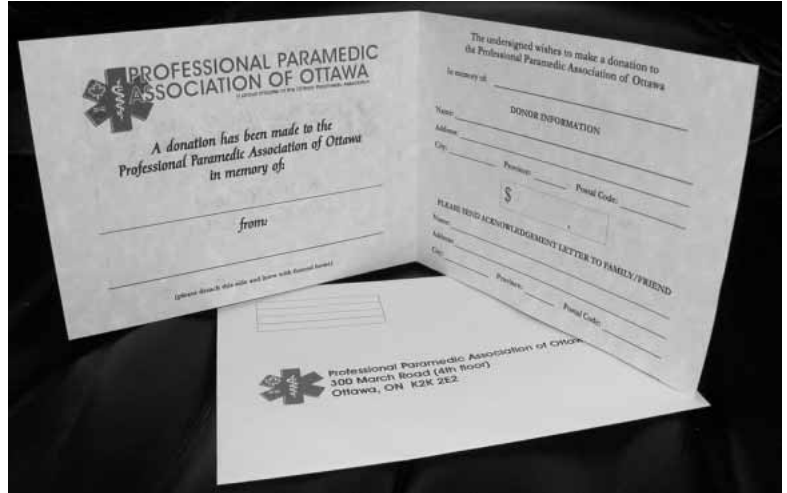
We're on the web!! www.OttawaParamedics.ca

PPAO Memoriam Card Donation Program

The Memoriam card donation program was initiated after two Ottawa Paramedic Service employees dealt with the death of a family member. In lieu of flowers their family and friends wanted to contribute to a paramedic related organization. The PPAO was approached to accept donations in memory of their loved ones.

In response to this identified community need, existing memoriam cards were researched. Darryl Wilton then designed a memoriam card and envelope for the PPAO based on his findings. Deanna Schofield contacted Funeral homes in the Ottawa area. These funeral homes agreed to stock the PPAO memoriam cards alongside other non-profits and charities (like the Heart & Stroke Foundation for example). Six hundred memoriam cards have been delivered to the participating funeral homes. This project allows the public to support the advancement

of pre-hospital care in loving memory of a friend or family member. The memoriam cards as an option for grieving friends and family members has been well received. Keys to the success of this program will likely be word of mouth awareness of the card availability at funeral homes to our members and their families & friends. Deanna has delivered a total of 600 cards to any funeral home within a 1 hour drive of Ottawa.



What is the PPAO Benevolent Society?

The Benevolent Society will focus on general preparations for a Line of Duty Death in Canada (i.e. travel arrangements, fund-raising) plus developing innovative ways to support our peers in an event of a family emergency, illness or death close to home. The PPAO feels that preparation for these events will ensure a well-planned and funded response.

The Benevolent Society will also include several people that have been initiating projects supporting

our peers for many years. Projects that will receive assistance by the Benevolent Society include the cards & flowers/donations sent in response to a death/illness of a family member, or new addition to the family, & organizing volunteers to fill shifts in the event of a family emergency.

How can I help?

Start by joining the six current Benevolent Society members in finding out more information by attending a

1 hour meeting on either Thursday October 14th @ 1700 hrs **or** Friday October 15 @ 1400 hrs at Tremblay.

This is your chance to contribute to your profession and your peers in a small or large way. For those of you new or experienced in the service this is a great way to meet people and have some fun!

Contact Deanna Schofield
Pager 593-6147

NOV 08, 2004

OMERS MEMBER INFO SESSION
17:30-19:30
Chimo Hotel
1199 Joseph Cyr St (Ottawa)

Paramedics downloaded in 2001 need to be there!
Project Lead: George Handzel 364-9472

Register in advance at:
www.omers.com
1-800-387-0813

Paramedicine 2004 and 2005

The PPAO is sending 4 paramedics from the Board of Directors to Toronto so they can participate in the Ontario Paramedic Associations premiere educational conference, Paramedicine 2004.

This event is scheduled to take place from Oct 12-14. Paramedicine 2004 is an educational conference where association chapters from across Ontario participate in CME's and discussions aimed at steering the future of paramedicine. Pictures from Paramedicine

2003 are in the MEMBERS area of www.OttawaParamedics.ca.

Ottawa will play host to Paramedicine 2005 which is expected to attract physicians, paramedics and very impressive guest speakers from across Canada. More info will follow in Spring of 2005.

If you would like more information on Paramedicine 2004, visit www.OntarioParamedic.ca.

Darryl Wilton, President

We're on the web!! www.OttawaParamedics.ca

NEW!! PPAO Advanced Survey and Data Collection

An association can only be as powerful as its membership. The PPAO has harnessed the most advanced internet technology in order to rapidly obtain input and compile statistics from our online membership. With this cutting edge technology, the PPAO will periodically release focus surveys on our website.

You can locate the surveys in the MEMBERS area. After completing your survey questions, hit the "Vote now!" button. All responses are anonymous. The OttawaParamedics.ca website will automatically tabulate all responses. The results will be released to our membership and target groups via newsletter once the survey is closed.

If you do not want to provide input into your profession, then you can turn off the surveys by [editing your account preferences](#). If you have an idea for a survey, please contact us by email or through the Think Tank. Thank-you.

Darryl Wilton, President

National Paramedic Lobby Days on Parliament Hill

The Paramedic Association of Canada will be holding its annual national lobby days on Oct 26-28th inclusive.

We would love to see as many Ottawa paramedics attend as possible. These people would have to be approved by the PPAO and PAC as being well informed and comfortable speakers.

You will not necessarily be expected to be there every day. Just submit your availability in at least half-day if not full-day slots. These lobby days will pave the path to your own future as a paramedic.

LOBBYING HOURS: 09:00-17:00

If you would like to attend, please use the EMAIL link on

the website. This will be a great learning experience for future municipal lobbying and will go a long way to securing Public Safety Occupation inclusion with early retirement at age fifty-five. We are almost there!

Darryl Wilton, President

PPAO Payroll Deduction is Finally Here!!

After 16 months of negotiations with the City of Ottawa, the PPAO has successfully secured payroll deduction! With payroll deduction up and running, we will now be recognized as the most powerful local chapter in Ontario.

The PPAO has been recognized as a very professional group by all levels of management. We have only been able to achieve this recognition due to our professionalism on the internet, our participation in the 2004 budget process, our positive media appearances, our international exposure for the Djamshid Popal transfer, the car seat inspection clinics, bilingual presentations and so much more.

HOW PAYROLL DEDUCTION WORKS

If you have already paid your first \$130 dues, we thank you for getting us up off the ground. This amount will be put towards all of 2003 and most of 2004. The PPAO would not be as powerful as it is today if it were not for all of the people who paid their dues to help get us started. Thanks!

Starting in October, all of our registered members will be moved to payroll deduction. Each pay, you will see \$5 deducted for a total of \$130/yr. Be advised that the 2004 Ontario Paramedic Association (OPA) membership period is set to expire on Sept 29, 2004. If you receive any mail from the OPA, please do not respond to it. The PPAO is responsible for renewing your OPA membership each year.

We have approximately 300 paramedics in Ottawa. To date, there are fewer than 35 paramedics who have not registered with the PPAO. If you have been procrastinating, then now is the time to submit your registration card (available on our website). An association can only be as powerful as its membership. Please choose to be part of the solution. If you have more questions or wish to pay your dues yearly instead of biweekly payroll deduction, contact Darryl Wilton at (613) 299-0333 or president@ottawaparamedics.ca.

Darryl Wilton, President



OCT 30, 2004

SURPRISE RETIREMENT PARTY FOR DENIS RONDEAU (35yrs)

Police Association Russel's Bar (upstairs) 141 Catherine St
19:00hrs until Denis falls asleep

Sponsored by CACC & the PPAO Free: Admission, DJ, food, etc
(Denis, please don't read this)

We're on the web!! www.OttawaParamedics.ca

OCT 26-28, 2004

**PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF
CANADA LOBBY DAYS**

**Parliament Hill
09:00-17:00**

**We are working on getting early retirement at
age 55 through Public Safety Officer inclusion.**

The PPAO is in the process of moving all of our members to payroll deduction. This will be the most affordable and easiest method of ensuring that your membership is renewed each year. Please refer to our website, emails, posters and EMS updates for more information. If you need to arrange another method of payment, please advise us immediately.



Invest in the Community

Ask yourself this... Does the media, council or the public understand the important specialized skills that paramedics bring to the community?

If you answered, "no", there are reasons for this.

Unlike our colleagues in the other emergency services, we don't linger on scenes. We don't spend five hours at a structure fire, nor do we close down a highway to investigate a traffic accident. We stay hidden. We swoop in, swiftly administer advanced life support treatment, and then we're gone. We become twenty minutes of a patient's life, and that's it. Although those twenty minutes can mean the difference between life and death, to the family, we're just a blur.

Part of the mandate of the Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa is to make the community aware of who paramedics are and what we do. While random "photo-opportunities" are nice to have, they are unpredictable and therefore their value is unreliable.

In order to raise our profile, we need to make sure we are a part of the community. We need to participate in local events (fairs, parades, schools, etc). These events only take a couple of hours a day and can have a tremendous impact on the communities we serve. These community events give paramedics golden opportunities to explain who we really are, what it is that we do, and how our challenges can have an impact on their lives. For each hour we put into the community, we receive countless rewards in return. If each paramedic volunteers for some exciting PPAO events for only 4 hours per year, it will have an enormous impact on selling the importance of our profession to the public. If there is an event in your community, and you want the PPAO to be there, just contact us by email or phone and let us know.

Steve Dodge, Director of Communications

Wanted: Child Car Seat Inspectors — Training starting soon.

The PPAO is currently looking for 24 paramedics who want to be trained as Child Car Seat Inspectors.

Starting last fall, the PPAO began negotiating with Ottawa Paramedic Service, Dr Cushman, and the City of Ottawa Public Health department to take control of the Child Car Seat Inspection Clinics in Ottawa. We just received news that we won the contract and will be the sole providers of this service!

The 6 hour clinics will be by appointment only, once per month, and will rotate through ALL Paramedic posts in Ottawa. Each clinic will be tied into the community with Councillor involvement and media exposure. We guarantee that these clinics will be lots of fun!

Paramedic inspectors will begin their training in November. If you are interested in becoming trained as an inspector, please cut-out the form at the bottom of this page. Once completed, submit it to the PPAO BOX (located in the Tremblay lunch room) by October 20th, 2004.

Elizabeth Anderson, Executive Secretary



Car Seat Inspection Clinics

Complete this form and submit it to the PPAO box if you want to be trained as a car seat inspector.

Name: _____

Pager or Contact Number: _____

Email: _____