

Highlights from the Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride

Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa

Across our nation, 36 paramedics have lost their lives in the line-of-duty while trying to help complete strangers. Of those deaths, 76% of them occur during transportation or while on the scene of crashes.

Unfortunately Canadian Paramedics currently do not have a national monument which honours and remembers Line-of-Duty-Deaths. The Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride is raising funds in support of a national paramedic memorial, and the challenge is monumental: 5 million dollars in 5 years!

Ottawa Paramedic Norm Robillard had previously attended the Muddy Angels ride in the USA and wanted to realize his dream of having a similar ride started in Canada.

ParamedicRide.ca Official Photos: <http://www.ottawaparamedics.ca/photos/?load=LASJ7D>



Rolling roadblocks from Toronto to Ottawa

Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride – The journey

The event began at Queens Park, Toronto on Friday September 20th and cyclists rode for 4 days, cycling over 526km through some frigid, wet and very windy weather along Lake Ontario. The ride proved to be a test of both physical and mental endurance for the cyclists.

When asked, each rider had their own personal reasons for taking part in this ride. Some were not cyclists and had recently taken up cycling just to partake in this ride so they could honour and remember their friends, their colleagues, and for some; their own family members who have died in the line of duty. However not all riders were paramedics. Some of the civilians riding had required paramedic services in the past, some life-saving, participated in the event as their way to say "thanks", to honour fallen paramedics, and to support the cause.

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Skies clearing for the ride



A little rain won't stop us



Paramedic Riders had escorts across Ontario



Truly National teamwork

Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride – The finale

In a spectacular finish the riders were escorted by RCMP, Ottawa Police and Paramedic units through city streets to Ottawa City Hall where riders were greeted by Mayor Jim Watson (City of Ottawa), Chief Anthony Di Monte (Ottawa Paramedic Service) and many other dignitaries.

Chiefs and paramedic units from different services all over Ontario and Quebec came together for a showing of solidarity at the finale.

The inaugural Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride finished with enormous success on Monday September 23rd, raising more than \$20,000 from fundraising and sponsorships.

The 2014 Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride is expected to double in participation.

The Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride team is also seeking individuals to organize and run a Ride in other provinces over the next few years. This monument goal will require the combined efforts and support from paramedics and citizens nationally.

Words from Susan Brayshaw, the Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride's president.

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The riders at Parliament



Police escort through Ottawa to the finish line at City Hall
Credit: Jean Levac/ Ottawa Citizen. Reprinted by permission

Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride – the crew who made it all happen

Ride Executive:

- Susan Brayshaw (President)
- Gordon Perolli (Ride Coordinator & 2013 Algonquin Paramedic Program graduate)
- Ben Ripley (Ride Coordinator & Photography)
- Marty Massé (Public Information & Media Rep)
- Norm Robillard (Ride Marshall)
- Ken Martin (Ride Marshall)
- Pierre-Paul Arcand (Ride Marshall)
- Garrith Green (Graphic Designer)

Ride Coordinators:

- Chief Mike Nolan (Chief Ride Coordinator)
- Faye Proctor (Ride Coordinator)
- Mike Lehman (Ride Coordinator)
- Ronda Shewan (Ride Coordinator)
- Annie Gregoire
- Claudine Coughlin
- Eric Maisonneuve
- Guillaume Soucy-Alarie
- Hugo Nadeau
- Alex Blaga

BIKE-A-THON raises \$3G's!

On September 6 2013 the first annual Bike-a-thon to raise money for a National Canadian Paramedic Memorial Monument was held in the By-ward Market in Downtown Ottawa.

For set-up, Christian Goudreault and Stephane Perras borrowed stationary bikes from the St. Laurent Complex and transported them to the Byward Market.

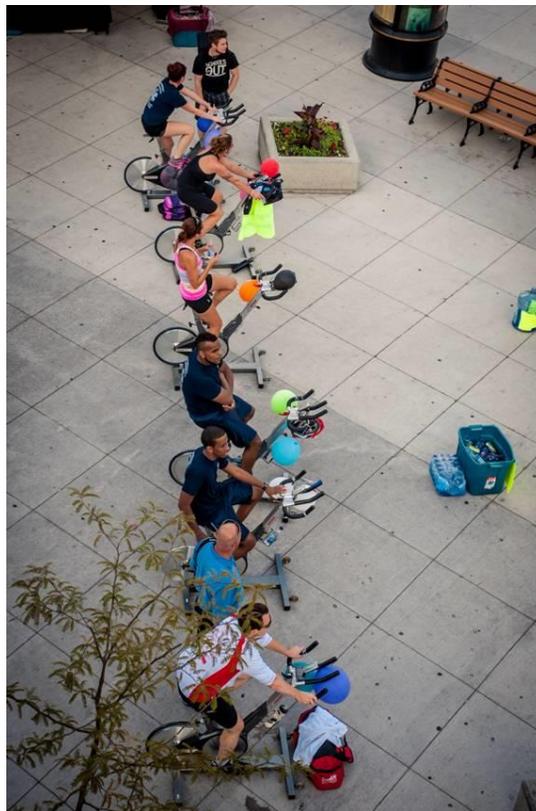
Retired paramedic Ed Ouston started the 12 hour day pedaling with students from La Cité Collégial. Throughout the day various paramedics and members of the public attended to participate and cheer us on.

Former dispatcher Nick Levesque acted as emcee for the event. He was a great motivator to those on the six stationary bicycles and was effective in engaging the attention of passerby's.

Over the course of the sun filled 12 hour day, a total of 1200kms were ridden and over three thousand dollars was donated to the cause.

Bike-a-thon coordinators Valerie Jacques and Tracy Levesque raised over \$3000.00 with their volunteers from Ottawa Paramedic Service and La Cité Collégiale.

This event was a resounding success thanks to everyone who attended, participated and donated to the cause.





PPAO presents cheque for \$8G's!

On September 23, 2013, with hundreds of onlookers at Ottawa City hall, paramedic Rosemary Bentley presented a cheque for \$8000.00 to Grant Ross from the Canadian Paramedic Benevolent Society.

The cheque was a cumulative amount presented on behalf of the Ottawa Paramedic Golf Tournament (\$5000) and the Ottawa Paramedic Bike-a-Thon (\$3000).

The Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa could not have raised these funds without the impressive work of Rosemary Bentley, Valerie Jacques, Tracy Levesque and their team of dedicated volunteers.

Any paramedic or civilian across Canada can step up to raise money for the national paramedic memorial. We are attempting to reach \$5 million in 5 years. Please think of a way you could contribute to this important cause.

