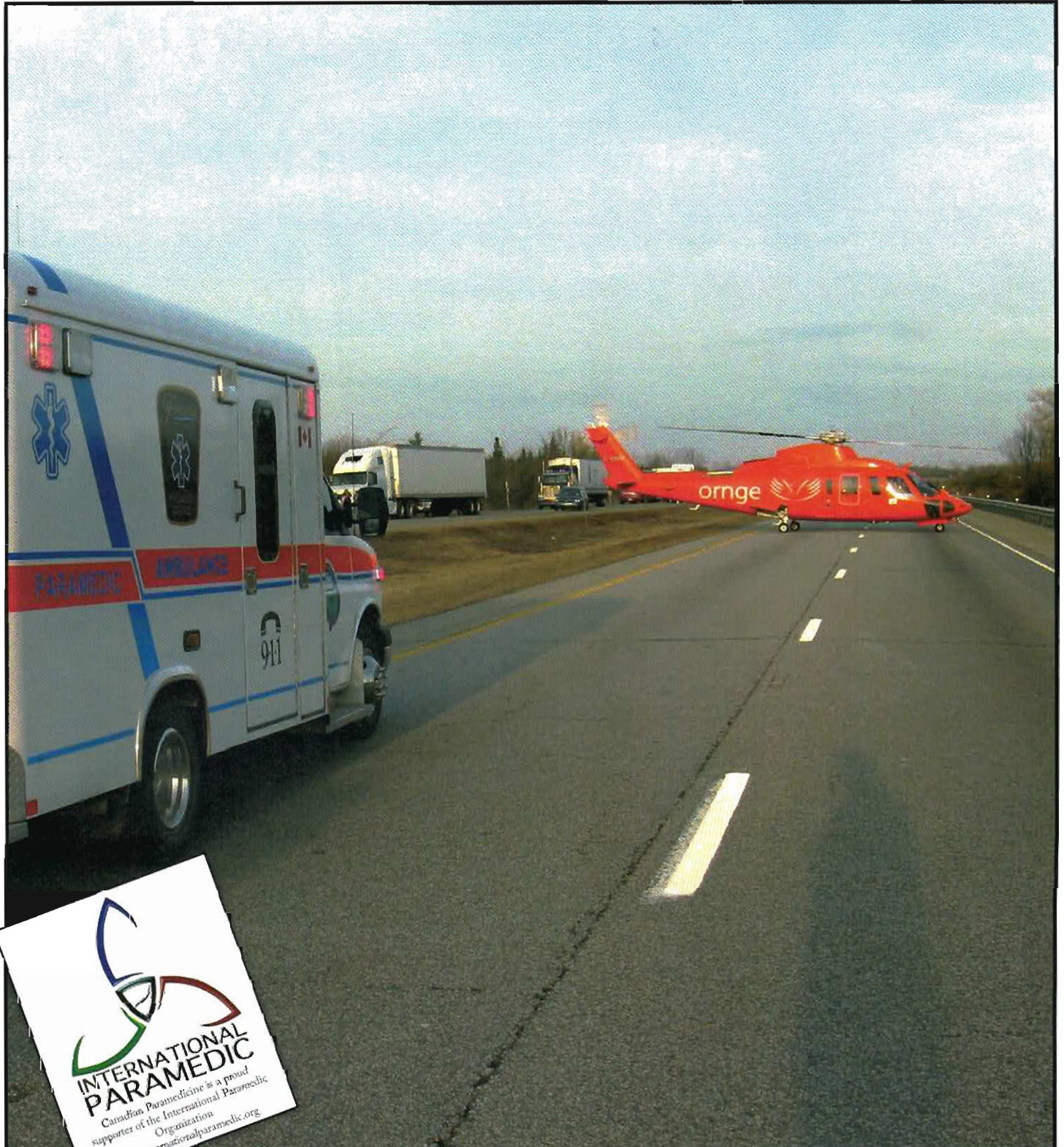


PCanadian Paramedicine



**INTERNATIONAL
PARAMEDIC**
Canadian Paramedicine is a proud
supporter of the International Paramedic
Organization
www.internationalparamedic.org

lives even when they're gone" by registering consent to organ and tissue donation.

Chief Peter Dundas said the connection was natural since paramedics at times play a vital role in the transplantation process by transporting transplant teams, patients and organs.

Since the development of online registration (www.beadonor.ca), TGLN created the program in an effort to educate Ontarians about the importance of organ and tissue donation, transplantation and registration where they spend most of their time: at work. Registering consent to be an organ and tissue donor is easy and can be done online through customizable web pages. The process takes just two minutes.

PRPS timed its campaign to run from September 2013 through to January 2014 in an effort to reach all paramedics during their continuing medical education sessions. They used email to remind and report to staff on the campaign's progress.

PRPS not only reached their goal of 150 visits to the online donor registry, but have now surpassed it, with 211 visits and counting.

"We are grateful for the work of our partners who help us spread the message about the importance of registration," says Ronnie Gavsie, President and CEO at Trillium Gift of Life Network. "Every new registration gives hope to the 1,500 Ontarians waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant."

One organ donor can save up to eight lives and enhance the lives of up to 75 others through the gift of tissue donation.

Currently, 24 per cent of eligible Ontarians have registered their consent.

For information on running a drive at your workplace, email workplace@gifttolife.on.ca

A MESSAGE FROM THE OPA PRESIDENT

As those of you who are active in social media or participate on international committees know, paramedicine is rapidly becoming a global community. At no other time has there been more collaboration, knowledge sharing and inspiration between paramedics from all

over the world. The question of who is the leader in education, community paramedicine, prehospital research or paramedic self-regulation, to name just a few areas of collaboration, is less relevant than the question of from whom can we learn and who can we assist. The two key guiding principles driving these collaborations has been patient advocacy and advancing the profession of paramedicine. These are indeed exciting times.

On a more local level, as many of you know, on January 21st, 2014, Ontario's Minister of Health, Deb Matthews, announced \$6M in funding for community paramedicine. Although the OPA cannot take credit for this historic announcement, I like to think that there was a measure of informal collaboration between the OPA and Ontario's Paramedic Chiefs to see this to fruition. Let me explain. In early 2013, the OPA organized a Queens Park Lobby day. Our two key messages were paramedic self-regulation and, based on advice from Paramedic Chief Mike Nolan, community paramedicine. To no one's surprise, not a single MPP we spoke to, other than the Minister of Health herself, had ever heard of community paramedicine. As we explained how various programs have worked, particularly the example in Deep River, MPPs seemed genuinely astounded at how important a role paramedics have played and can play as part of an inter-professional team to help seniors live independently and reduce unnecessary 9-1-1 calls. One MPP even apologized and admitted her embarrassment that she had not heard of this concept.

Fast forward to January 2014 and community paramedicine is now getting the recognition and attention it deserves. The speed with which this happened was shocking from my perspective. However, although we played a small part in educating MPPs and this may have served as a bit of a catalyst, Ontario's Paramedic Chiefs have been working diligently to make this a reality. They, along with others who have worked with them, deserve the credit as the innovators and the architects of this exciting sub specialty.

Rob Theriault

President, Ontario Paramedic Association



TPA PATCH

Brian Annett

The Toronto Paramedic Association (TPA) has had a busy first few months and has reflected on our goals for the year. We have been proud of our members for their efforts in multiple charity events. We had a successful toy drive that raised over \$5,000 worth of toys for CTV's toy mountain. We are striving to maintain that support annually. There are multiple upcoming events to come that need our attention to promote our profession.

The TPA was able to welcome 41 new recruits to Toronto. We provided lunch and spoke about our ongoing activities. It was a great experience and feedback was very positive. We hope to see them out there soon.

A very successful program has been initiated between the Toronto Marlies Hockey Club and the TPA. They have been very grateful for the work of the emergency services. The program allows members to watch a game with their family in the front row. They have set aside a few dates for Toronto paramedics. The first 'hero' of the game went to Tom Janetos, a medic with 19 years of service. He was very appreciative and although he was reluctant to take the praise he felt like a star. The TPA thanks the Marlies for their contribution in recognizing our members.

The TPA held its Annual General Meeting in February and that gave us a chance to revisit our goals and our vision for the New Year. We hope to be vigilant in promoting our profession. One of our main goals is that of informing our media partners of the term 'Paramedic' and what its definition entails. A

recent CBC story told of a medical transfer company who had brought home a patient to the wrong address. The concern raised involved the writer who stated that paramedics took the patient home, which was not the case. Corrections were sent but this mistake highlights our need to be diligent with positive promotion and education of our profession.



NORTHUMBER- LAND NEWS

Rebecca Thomas

As you may have noticed we have a new name. we are officially going by Northumberland Paramedics now, no longer EMS. This has been a long time coming and the change was decided not just by our management but by input from all the paramedics that work throughout Northumberland County. As I mentioned in the last issue we have a new look to our trucks. Since then we are slowly getting a new look on us also. Kudos goes out to our uniform committee that worked with management to choose a new look for our uniforms. our new four-in-one coats came just in time for the subzero temperatures we've been experiencing this winter.

Despite being busy with the ice storm, multiple severe snow storms in our area and a lot of overtime call-outs, our paramedics have still kept up public relations. At the end of 2013 we managed to get our ambulance and paramedics into five out of seven Santa Claus Parades throughout Northumberland County.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS HAMPER

For the 14th year in a row Northumber-

land Paramedics have sponsored a family gift/ food basket through the Salvation Army. Karen Jusqiw oversees that the information gets out to all the bases, collects donations and then purchases everything still required before dropping it off to the Salvation Army the week before Christmas. This year at our annual Christmas party a 50/50 draw was held in support of this. \$380 was raised quite quickly and was a great start to purchasing everything on the wish list for a mother and her two teens in our area.

CAREER DAY

Shane Eickmann
Director of Public Relations

On January 10th C.R. Gummow School had their annual Career Day for their Grade 7 and 8 students.

Paramedics David Francois and Bob Cranley attended to talk to the eagerly awaiting students. They covered such topics as our scope of practice, our education, the different levels of paramedicine, etc. David and Bob also took turns answering all of their questions in relation to our career and showed them some of the tools of our trade.

As in previous years, the paramedics were a hit amongst the students and talked about for the rest of the day.



Northumberland Paramedics Bob Cranley & Dave Francois at Career Day

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season and is well rested and ready to take on 2014. I have a feeling that this year

will be a great year for all of us working here in Niagara. I foresee some incredible things on the horizon for us. How can I tell?

First, in my six years as president of the Niagara Paramedic Association (NPA), I have never been so proud and honored to be part of such an amazing executive as I have been this past year. They are very strong and dedicated to making our association and profession something we can all be proud of. They have put in so many volunteer hours planning, researching and organizing in order to educate not only the public, but our own members in many aspects of paramedicine. I am very grateful for all the work each has contributed.

Secondly, behind this executive are the masses of amazing members. It was impressive to see the spirit and camaraderie grow within our family in 2013, be it volunteering for an event or pitching in to help out our own. This association is nothing without its members. Be it time to spare or a resource to share, you make all the difference and we thank you for that.

As you read through the NPA Year In Review, you will realize the accomplishments of 2013, such as the scholarship funds, EMS Week, Christmas events and brilliant ideas for 2014 and the future of the association. Our executive is working very hard on initiatives for this year and hope that you can find that "time to spare or resource to share" to help keep our association moving forward into a promising future.

Though you may not see much of me in 2014, rest assured that this executive and myself are committed to our community and its members. Have a safe and happy 2014 and I hope to see you out and about for the association and all its endeavours.

We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Melissa Lacroix
NPA President

