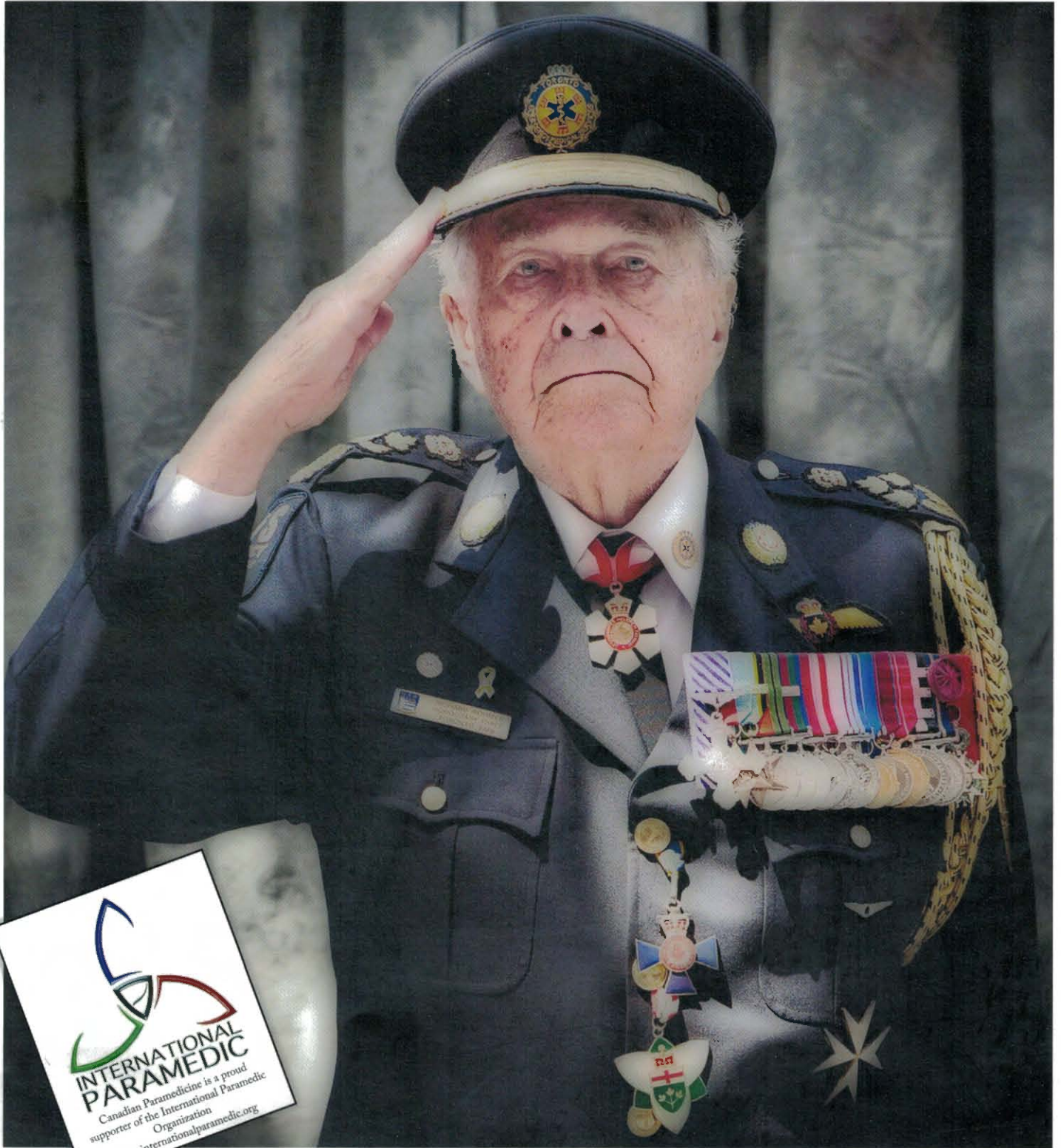


# DCanadian Paramedicine



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organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Ontario. He is the TGLN representative in the operating room responsible for communicating with transplant hospitals, organizing the transport of the organs and ensuring proper documentation of the process, in addition to other duties.

*"This job has been a really great experience,"* he says. *"Going to school to become a paramedic, I didn't even know this job existed."*

O'Connor has been an SRC with TGLN since the fall of 2007. His paramedic training provided him with the medical knowledge base he uses in his current role; as well, it prepared him for high pressure situations where time is of the essence.

Just like being a paramedic with an emergency medical service, O'Connor says his job involves unpredictability – just the other week he accompanied a transplant team to Moncton to recover an organ – and working in a variety of places. It is definitely not a 9 to 5 job, but he finds it rewarding.

*"Every time I do get called in and work a really long day I've contributed to saving at least one person's life,"* he says. *"I find that very rewarding."*

While O'Connor works full-time as an SRC, a few of his colleagues work full-time as paramedics and part-time for TGLN.

But, you don't have to work for TGLN to help the agency in saving lives. Anyone can do their part to make a difference by registering their consent to organ and tissue donation. Registration is easy at [www.beadonor.ca](http://www.beadonor.ca), in person at any Service-Ontario Centre or through the mail by filling out a Gift of Life consent form.

Now let's see what Toronto, Peel and Ottawa have to contribute...

## TPA PATCH

Brian Annett



Greetings folks, here's the news from the members and the Board of the Toronto Paramedic Association. The days are growing longer and the weather is warming up, hoping it lasts! There were many events surrounding St Patrick's Day that were grand. During the



TPA Director Brian Annett with Councilor Doug Ford at 2014 St. Pat's Parade



parade, the TPA marched along the street in the midst of Ambulances and support trucks, including our vintage Packard & Bonnevill ambulances. The TPA and its members dressed up the trucks in green banners and shamrocks, feeling the spirit of the day. There were many cheers and an extremely generous crowd. As we marched with bags open, some in the crowd placed all types of different food items. We had been collecting nonperishable food items for the Daily Bread Food Bank. During the parade,

we were one of the top trending accounts in Canada over social media. It was an exciting and successful day as we collected over 1000 pounds of food. Toronto was also represented in one of Canada's biggest tourist destinations, Niagara Falls. Niagara paramedics held a St Patrick's Day hockey tournament in the name of one of their own. The TPA was proud its members participated in such a great event. It was a two day tournament that began with a round robin and culminated in a championship







Our ambulances full of toys and diapers



PPA President Holly Lundrigan, PRPS Supervisor Lawrence Saindon, Christmas Elf Riley Saindon, and PRPS Community Relations Officer Brad Boxie with all the toys and diapers ready to be given to the families of the PCC

game on the second day. Toronto's team had been undefeated entering the semi-final round. The fate seemed sealed for T.O. as they were losing 2-0 in the final few minutes of the game. Toronto tied it up with less than a minute left and eventually won the game in a shootout. The TPA was proud the Toronto hockey team made it to the championship game, although they lost a close game, their performance deserves respect.

The TPA continues to be appreciative of the Toronto Marlies Hockey Club. We had two separate occasions that have recognized our members as heroes. The first was Don Meikle because he regularly volunteers his spare time to participate in commu-

nity fundraisers, promote the profession of Paramedicine, and to participate in local events as a Paramedic. The second, Gregory Trent has been an excellent role model. He is the treasurer for the friendship fund and a member of the peer support team which together show how much Greg helps his fellow paramedics in Toronto.

Well, it's that time of year again...the snow has finally started to melt, and after this year's winter, it has been a blessing!! And that means its spring and almost that time for Paramedic Week.

It's been a while since we last updated you all about what's been happening around the Peel Paramedic Association and we have been busy!!

## Christmas Toy Drive

That's right, taking you all the way back to that wonderful, magic time of the year. Yet again the Peel Paramedic Association partnered with Peel Regional Paramedic Services to make sure that a great number of children from the Peel Children's Center had a very Merry Christmas!!

It was very merry indeed!!! Thanks to the generous donations from our paramedics and support staff we were able to fill a few ambulances. There were lots of toys and presents for the children of all ages!! Again, a huge thank you goes out to Lawrence Saindon, organizer of the Peel Paramedic Golf Tournament, who generously donated proceeds from the 2013 golf tournament to purchase toys and diapers.

We would also like to thank North City General Insurance Brokers who made a wonderful donation to Peel Children's Center on behalf of the Peel Paramedic Association. Their generosity helped to make the Christmas season a little more wonderful and magical for the children and their families.

We would also like to thank Mississauga Cartons who have generously donated the boxes we collect the toys in for the last few years!!

Peel Children's Centre (PCC) is a fully accredited, charitable, not-for-profit children's mental health centre that has served Peel since 1985. Each year PCC provides 6,800 services free-of-charge for children/youth under age 18, and their families, who are experiencing serious mental health challenges such as aggression, defiance, impulsivity, anxiety, depression, attachment disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and self-harm

Without all of our paramedics and staff who generously donated toys and diapers, these children would not have known the true meaning of Christmas!!!

Congratulations and looking forward to an even more successful 2014 drive!!!!

## Ontario Trillium Foundation

Last year the PPA applied for and was successful in receiving a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation! This has been the third time that we have received the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant!

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario and Canada's leading grant-maker. The Foundation's mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector, through investments in community-based