



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

**ONTARIO POLICE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION'S
CEREMONY of REMEMBRANCE**

On Sunday May 6th 2018, the 19th annual Ceremony of Remembrance for Ontario's fallen police officers will take place.

All 266 names will be read aloud beginning at 10am, by two recruits representing the latest graduating class of Ontario's finest from the Ontario Police College. Music from the Waterloo Regional Brass Band and songs from members of the Ontario Police Choruses will be performed prior to the arrival of the Procession of Honour.

Police Pipe Bands will lead officers from across Ontario, the United States of America and Europe in their march along Queen's Park Crescent, arriving at the steps of the Legislature before 11am for the official start of the annual Ceremony of Remembrance.

Attending the Ceremony will be the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Marie-France Lalonde the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services of Ontario; and the families and friends of the fallen officers.

The Ontario Police Memorial Foundation (OPMF), host of the annual Memorial Service, continues with its research to fulfill its goal of ensuring that every fallen officer from Ontario will not be forgotten.

The architectural illumination of the CN Tower will be done in blue light the evening of May 5th to honour police officers in the Province of Ontario who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The Ontario Police Memorial Foundation will be streaming live at <http://ceremonyofremembrance.ca/live> throughout the Ceremony.

Contact Persons: Rondi Craig, President, OPMF at 416-702-7487, Organizer Tanis Hurst at 647-668-7528, or Toronto Police Service, Public Information, at 416-808-7094.

Fact Sheet - Ontario Police Memorial

- The Memorial is located in a small park adjacent to the Ontario Legislature, at the corner of Grosvenor Street and Queen's Park Crescent.
- The Memorial was built from a grant provided by the Ontario Government. Official dedication Service May 7th, 2000.
- The Memorial consists of two bronze statues, (approximate 2.5 m), depicting a male officer in duty dress circa 1950-1990 and a female officer in modern duty dress. The statues are mounted atop a large granite pedestal base (weighing 30,000 lbs). At the feet of the statues are eight (8) cascading granite walls. The four - (4) walls on either side of the main pedestal form a horseshoe shape. The names of all known fallen officers are inscribed on these walls, the "Wall of Honour".
- Toronto based artist; Mr. Siggy Puchta is the sculptor of the bronze statues. He has many awards and accomplishments (1986 he designed the trophy depicting the Calgary Saddledome for the Calgary Cup Games (pre-Olympic games). In 1991, he was commissioned to create seven large Canada Geese for the Blue Water Bridge Authority in Sarnia, Ontario. In 1994, he designed the Marilyn Bell award sculpture).
- The criteria to add a police officer's name on the "Wall of Honour":
 - i. The deceased member must have been a sworn member of a police service.
 - ii. The Death must have occurred as a result of a traumatic event influenced by an external agent.
 - iii. The deceased member must have been on duty at the time of death, or if off duty, acting in the capacity of a police officer, or the circumstances leading to the death must have been brought about because of the deceased's official status.
 - iv. The deceased must have acted in good faith in doing everything that could reasonably have been expected.
 - v. Notwithstanding all of the above, the Committee may consider any set of circumstances which lead to a death of a member of a police service.
 - ❖ 266 Officers from Ontario Police Services are named on the Wall of Honour.
 - ❖ 68 Ontario Police Services are named on the Wall of Honour.
 - ❖ The Ontario Provincial Police have 87 officers named on the Wall of Honour.
 - ❖ The Toronto Police have 41 officers named on the Wall of Honour.

The Ontario Police Memorial Pin

This pewter pin replicates the Memorial's Wall of Honour, which contains the names of all fallen officers who have died in the service of the people of Ontario.

The pin depicts a trillium placed within a badge. The badge is the symbol, which represents the authority of all police officers, and the trillium is the official flower of Ontario. Combined together, they represent the Police Officers of Ontario.

The words, "HEROES IN LIFE NOT DEATH" are on the Memorial's main pedestal and on the Memorial Pin.

On August 12th, 1998, Waterloo Regional Police Constable David Nicholson lost his life while trying to recover the body of a child who drowned in the Grand River at the Parkhill Dam in Cambridge, Ontario.

In expressing their appreciation and gratitude to family and friends, Mrs. Wendy Nicholson and sons Mitch, Reid and Josh stated in part, *"...Dave's death has been painful and devastating. He was our hero in life, not death. Our memories of him are rich and immeasurable, filling our hearts with both deep joy and profound pain..."*

Wendy Nicholson's words are the inspiration for this inscription.

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and the Commissioner of the OPP have endorsed the wearing of this pin on an officer's uniform. Police Officers, both active and retired, are asked and encouraged to wear the pin as a sign of support and respect for the families and our fallen comrades.

In Memoriam

**Constable John Robert Smythe,
Fort Erie OPP
9 December 1922**

On Dec. 9th, Constable John Smythe and Canada Customs Officer Charles Muir were on their way to Port Colborne from Fort Erie, to conduct a liquor seizure, using Officer Muir's touring car driven by Constable Smythe. The car lost control on loose gravel and barrel rolled twice.

Officer Muir was not injured in the accident but Constable Smythe was found deceased underneath the overturned vehicle.

After a post-mortem examination the Coroner's Jury declared his cause of death was from shock.

Constable Smythe was well known on both sides of the international border by law breakers, for his diligence in enforcement of the Temperance Act. Numerous threatening letters had been received from both New York State and Ontario residents. Due to this, a Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) Inspector was dispatched from OPP General Headquarters to investigate the circumstances of the accident.

John Smythe was 28 years of age and single at the time of his death. He had been with the Ontario Provincial Police for two years.

Born in Belfast Ireland, he served in the Irish Guards in WWI where he had been wounded four times. Following the war he immigrated to Canada.

Highway Traffic Officer Almer Frederick Hamilton Wilson
Department of Highways Leamington
26 August 1929

Highway Traffic Officer Wilson was on patrol on Hwy #3 near the village of Maidstone, when the rear tire of his new Department of Highways motorcycle blew out causing the bike to cross into the oncoming path of a car. Officer Wilson was thrown from the bike striking his head into the side of the car then was thrown onto the pavement striking his head on the roadway. Two doctors who were traveling on the same road came to his immediate aid and he was transported to hospital in Windsor, where he passed away from his injuries.

Almer Wilson had been with the Provincial Highway Traffic Department for 2.5 months, and was married with no children, he was 27 years of age at the time of his death.

He was born in South Bend Indiana USA, and immigrated to Canada as a child with his Canadian parents.