



Message from the Chief

I'm excited to share with you the spring edition of the TPS newsletter. This issue is filled with inspiring stories that showcase the



outstanding work of our people over the past several months. The Omicron variant has certainly challenged us since the end of 2021, but with all of us pulling together we will continue to find success in our fight against COVID-19.

In January, we recognized "Bell Let's Talk Day" and were reminded of the importance of proactively taking care of both our



physical and mental health and wellness. Our continued focus is to ensure that up-to-date and reliable resources are available to each of you, such as the newly launched "Four Pillars of Resiliency" toolkit. A big thank you to Staff Psychologist Leslie Langdon for her work in making this available. I encourage each of you to [visit the Staff Blog to explore the toolkit](#) and the wealth of resources to support you.

We are also continuing our work to increase staffing and reduce system workload pressures. In February, City Council approved the addition of 62 new Paramedic positions, and we will be hiring approximately 200 Paramedics this year to include these new positions and to replace those who have retired or left. In addition, through collaboration with Local 416, we were recently able to offer all eligible part-time Paramedics the opportunity to switch to full time; our Education teams continue to recruit and train new Paramedics and Communications Centre staff; and work is ongoing to reduce offload delays through the Fit2Sit program, Hospital Task Force and other initiatives. We are also offering a number of exciting opportunities for our staff with EMD, ACP, Public Safety Unit and HUSAR training all happening this year.

On behalf of all of us, *thank you* for your hard work, courage and dedication. I wish each of you the very best.

– Paul Raftis.



Follow the Chief on Twitter @ChiefPaulRaftis



25 Years of Tactical Paramedicine with Bruce Campbell



Chief Paul Raftis, Superintendents Steve Krasl and Jeff Wuebbolt, Paramedic Bruce Campbell, Superintendent Dave Cook, Commander Mike Grife, and Deputy Chief Leo Tsang

ACP Bruce Campbell has been a member of the Tactical Paramedic Team since its inception 25 years ago. This past fall, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the team, Bruce's dedication and many contributions were recognized by some of his past and present teammates. Congratulations, Bruce!

MLSE Says Thanks

At MLSE's 2022 First Responders Appreciation Night on March 10, 2022, TPS Call Taker Kieya Bailey was recognized by 17,000 fans along with honourees from Toronto Fire and Police before the Toronto Maple Leafs took on the Arizona Coyotes.

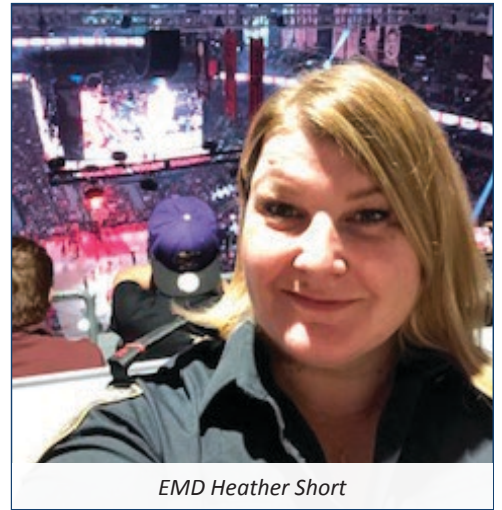
On December 8, Critical Care Paramedics Matt Carson and Jason Carriere were honoured as Hometown Heroes during a special recognition ceremony. They were both presented with jerseys while the announcer told 19,800 fans about the important work of Critical Care Paramedics throughout the pandemic.

2021 Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Heather Short represented the Service at the Toronto Raptors' opening game on October 20. Heather took part in a First



KIEYA BAILEY
TORONTO
PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Responder appreciation and recognition ceremony during the pre-game activities, alongside members of Toronto Police and Toronto Fire. Later, Heather enjoyed the game from the Raptors' Fan Deck.



EMD Heather Short

On October 13, 2021, ACP Jennifer Bassett-Spiers represented TPS at the Toronto Maple Leafs' opening game. During a special tribute to first responders, 20,000 Leafs fans applauded her along with other first responders and frontline workers for their selfless service throughout the pandemic.



ACP Jennifer Bassett-Spiers



CCP Jason Carriere



CCP Matt Carson

Bringing Vaccines to the Streets

Flu season and COVID-19 intersected again this year, and so did our vaccination clinics. This past fall, our Community Paramedics and community partners took vaccination clinics to the streets using a TTC bus, providing both COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations for the public and our staff.

Our Community Paramedics hosted a number of public

clinics, in addition to their ongoing homebound vaccination program. The program was a great success with over 760 residents vaccinated against the flu!

Mayor Tory attended two of the community clinics to thank our staff and partners for their vital work, which has been key to the success of the Team Toronto vaccination initiative.



Community Paramedic partners from TTC, Michael Garron Hospital, Councillor Joe Cressy, Mayor John Tory, Deputy Chief Jennifer Shield, TTC, Commander Kyle MacCallum, Paramedic Ainsley Garrett and Community Partners from the The Neighbourhood Organization

Flu Shots for Everyone!

In addition to the public clinics, our Community Paramedics hosted staff vaccination clinics at all the district offices and headquarters.

For the first time ever, mobile vaccination clinics were also offered to our Paramedics at various locations across the city.



Oh, the Weather Outside was Frightful...



Photo credit: Frank Gunn, Canadian Press from Twitter

On January 17, a snowstorm of epic proportions hit Southern Ontario and dumped nearly 50 cm of snow on the city in a single day! Our incredible staff pulled together to help each other through this extreme weather event as residents and members of other emergency services worked together to ensure those in need received help! Our service received high praise from senior City staff elected officials and residents for our response during the storm and in the days after. This was a snowstorm for the record books and photos like these are inspiring, to say the least.



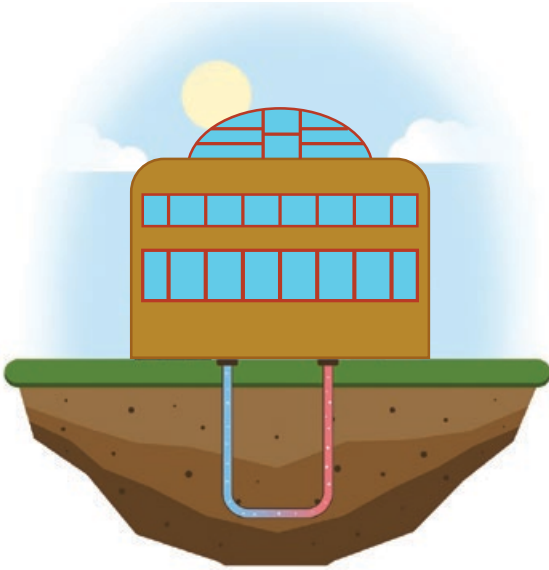
01 LTs - Dave Wilson, Superintendent Yorr Rains, Tom Mongillo, Mike Wheeler and Dave Ramsawak. Photo credit: Ashley Spataro



Photo credit: JP Murray via Twitter



Net Zero by 2040



In November, the Mayor attended our headquarters to highlight a joint Energy Conservation Project as a part of the City's accelerated climate strategy to achieve Net Zero by 2040. This project is expected to reduce the building's energy consumption by 55% and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 62%.

The project involves geothermal technology which uses the naturally higher temperature deep underground to heat buildings (think molten lava from a volcano!). The

heat source is reached by drilling towards the earth's centre. In the case of our HQ building, this heat source was located almost 900 feet below the parking lot surface.

This is only the beginning of the project as there will be further work done to both heat and cool the building, as well as installing solar panels over the parking deck.



Chief Paul Raftis, TFS Chief Matthew Pegg, Mayor John Tory, Councillors James Pasternak and Jennifer McKelvie

Another Year of Supporting MADD's Red Ribbon Campaign

TPS annually supports MADD Toronto's Project Red Ribbon campaign which builds awareness of the importance of driving sober. Thank you to all of our staff who helped tie red ribbons on our vehicles to increase the campaign's visibility in Toronto.



Mechanic Mario De Rosa affixes a red ribbon to an ambulance antenna

Toy Mountain Donation from Communications Centre Staff

Thank you to our Communications Centre staff who raised \$3,000 to help build a Toy Mountain and make a difference in our communities this past holiday season.

On December 14, CTV also aired a donation video submitted on behalf of everyone in the Communications Centre.



Superintendent Laura Potter, AR Superintendent Aneki Nissan, Superintendent Sue Prevost and Call Taker Elaine Holmes

Another Successful Movember

An impressive donation of over \$9,100 was presented to the Movember Campaign by a team of Paramedics and CACC staff at the annual “shave-off” event on November 30. The team collected donations and sold branded toques

during the 2021 campaign.

The “shave-off” was held at the CNE where the team enjoyed the support of Mayor Tory, Chief Raftis, Peel Paramedics and Toronto Police Services.



A/Superintendent Brian Annett, Paramedic and Movember Team Leader Eden Rosenberg, Mayor John Tory, Chief Paul Raftis, Paramedics Ajay Parekh and Sam Romyn



Toronto Police horse Draper sporting his ‘stache



EMD Gary Bunn losing the lip sweater

More Funding for CPLTC Program

In October 2021, Chief Raftis welcomed the Mayor and other dignitaries to 46 Station to announce \$82M in funding to expand the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care program across the province.

Community Paramedics are uniquely suited to provide ongoing support and wellness checks for this group of vulnerable seniors, helping to reduce unnecessary visits to hospital.



Councillor Brad Bradford, A/Commander Kyle MacCallum, Chief Paul Raftis, Paramedic Ashley Barber, then Minister of Long-Term Care Rod Phillips, Mayor John Tory, Paramedic Gordon Lee, A/Superintendent Brian Annett, MPP Aris Babikian, A/Commander Stefano Di Ciccio, MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, Superintendent Gary McAuley

Sirens for Life

2021 saw yet another successful Sirens for Life competition in support of Canadian Blood Services. Toronto Police took top position in this friendly competition, but TPS and Toronto Fire weren't too far behind! Ten TPS employees donated blood during this campaign and Pioneer and retired Paramedic Jacques Hins showed up once again to donate. A huge thank you to Jacques for his support and regular donations!



TPS Pioneer and retired Paramedic Jacques Hins

Anyone can donate during the 2022 Sirens for Life campaign, or at any time throughout the year. There are currently 24 team members on TPS' Partners for Life team, which closed out 2021 with 66 donations. Please consider making an appointment – it's in you to give! For more info, log onto blood.ca or download the Give Blood app and tap 'Partners' to join the team.

31 Years at the Reins!

2021 marked the 31st year that our staff volunteered to drive the floats in Toronto's Annual Santa Claus Parade. Due to the pandemic, the floats were filmed at a remote location in advance of the parade and aired for the public later in December.

26 TPS employees volunteered to drive floats this past Christmas, many of whom have been involved as drivers since 1990! The effort was led by Jaqueline Tomas who took over the reins to the sleigh from her parents – former



Pictured: 2021 TPS Volunteer Float Drivers

TPS employees and the driving force behind this annual Service tradition.

Anyone interested in joining the group next year can contact Jaqueline.Tomas@toronto.ca.



Kudos to Our Employees

Below are some notes of thanks to recognize the outstanding work of our staff who made a difference for their patients, their families, as well as fellow staff members:

Paramedics Nicholas Tersigni & Rose Cossar:

"I had a serious allergic reaction to an unknown substance and had to call 911. The paramedics that arrived were exceptional. Upon their arrival I immediately felt like everything was going to be okay. They were a great team, calm and communicated very well to myself and each other. You should take great pride in your training and hiring practices. Thank you!"

TPS' social media handles are as follows:

Facebook: **Toronto Paramedic Services**

Twitter: **@torontomedics**

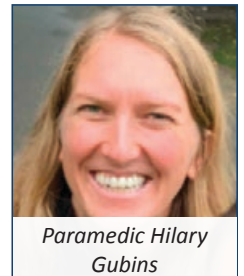
YouTube: **Toronto Paramedic Services**

Don't forget to follow us, like, and share our posts!

Retired Commander Ralph Hole – A Round of Applause Award from the Renewable Energy Team:

"Our team worked closely with Ralph over the years on innovative energy pilot projects. When our team first started installing solar energy on City properties Ralph was extremely supportive...we partnered to do the City's first solar and storage pilot project with great success."

TPS Paramedic Hilary Gubins has a passion for climbing and often spends her weekends at her favourite climbing locations across the province. Last fall, she was enjoying a great day of climbing when she came across an injured fellow climber. Hilary quickly took charge of the scene, rendered first aid and stayed with the climber until local Paramedics and emergency services arrived. A Paramedic's duty is never done. Amazing work, Hilary!



Paramedic Hilary Gubins

Are you interested in being a part of something **great**? Every year there are a number of special recognition days, months and events, as well as many public information campaigns, and we want to celebrate you!

Participation may include **pictures**, **videos** or **speaking roles** for internal or external media and social media. Examples of special recognition events:

Black History Month, Bell Let's Talk Day, Pride Month, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Movember and many more. Past public information campaigns include **Make the Right Call, Beat the Heat, and 911 in Any Language.**

If you are interested in participating and representing the Service, please contact Kim.McKinnon@toronto.ca.

Toronto Paramedic Services Today is a quarterly publication for staff of Toronto Paramedic Services. It is edited by Kim McKinnon, Superintendent of Public Information and Media, with support from the Multimedia Group. If you would like to share

a newsworthy story, please contact Kim at (416) 392-2255 or Kim.McKinnon@toronto.ca. Feedback from staff is welcome and appreciated. For the latest internal communications, please visit us on the web at: torontomedics.ca/today