



CPER Peer Paramedic
Award of Excellence

CPER Peer Paramedic Award of Excellence |

The Centre for Paramedic Education and Research (CPER) recently awarded 5 paramedics the 2012 CPER Peer Paramedic Award of Excellence. This award is given to a paramedic who is nominated by one of his/her peers and chosen by CPER from each of the nine services in our region. Paramedics are nominated by a fellow paramedic for a variety of reasons such as; outstanding patient care, community involvement of a clinical nature, or public relations organization promoting EMS/patient care. The submissions are reviewed by CPER and the award is granted to a well deserving candidate.

The recipients of this year's award are being presented with a certificate and a token gift of our appreciation for their professionalism and dedication to the profession. We asked them to write a bit about themselves for our newsletter as a way to further recognize them.

As paramedics we are trained to help victims of sudden illness or traumatic injury. They look to us for empathy and medical attention and that is what we strive to provide. We provide this through advanced treatments and pharmacological agents in the prehospital setting.

As paramedics we are invited into people's lives at very crucial moments. Though it is just another day at work for us, for the people we serve it may very well be a life altering moment of their life. There are not many professions that offer such an intimate interaction with people, at such pivotal moments in their lives. There is a poem that I came across years ago that beautifully expresses the paramedic profession.

Being a Paramedic means;

You will never be bored
You will always be frustrated
You will be surrounded by challenges
You will step into people's lives and you will make a difference
Some will bless you, Some will curse you
You will see people at their worst and at their best,
You will see life begin and end,
You will cry a lot, You will laugh a lot
You will know what it means to be human
And to be humane.

Author Unknown

Contributed by Tracey Groszeibl



Tracey Groszeibl

Advanced Care Paramedic
Niagara EMS

Tracey Groszeibl |

It is a great honour to have been chosen as a recipient of the 2012 CPER Peer Paramedic Award of Excellence from my peers and from CPER. As I have been asked to write a bit about myself I have chosen to focus on what it means to me to be a paramedic, and how I got here.

Paramedicine was not my first career choice but instead one I began while in my thirties. As a child I dreamed of working as a paramedic as I watched the old TV series called "Emergency". It wasn't until after completing my post-secondary education in another field, working and then starting a family that I decided to pursue that dream. This decision has with time proven to be the best career choice of my life which has brought me much fulfillment.

Though some people find their career path early in life but for others it takes time to find that path. I am one of the others. That being said I feel blessed to have found a job that I truly enjoy at just the right time for me.



Richard Guy

Advanced Care Paramedic
Region of Waterloo EMS

Richard Guy |

When I decided to go back to school in my mid-thirties, I had an idea that the challenges and rewards of being a paramedic would be the career I'd been dreaming of. Having moved from the United Kingdom to Canada to marry my wife, Jenni, in 1999, I found both a career I loved and many close friends in the paramedic program at Conestoga College. I graduated in 2004 and began working for the Region of Waterloo EMS just in time for the birth of my first daughter, Eva. After working as a PCP for five years and welcoming another daughter, Astrid, to my family, I headed back to Conestoga College to become an Advanced Care Paramedic. When asked what I like most about my job I would have to say that I couldn't imagine that many other jobs offer the opportunities to work with great colleagues, and help the public while enjoying the variety that comes with never knowing what a shift will bring. It was a dream of mine to become a paramedic and I worked hard and got there. I have never regretted my decision. I love what I do, and I get to work with a great bunch of people every day. I'm very lucky.

CPER Peer Paramedic
Award of Excellence



Randy Jones

Advanced Care Paramedic
Hamilton EMS

Randy Jones |

My name is Randy Jones and I am an Advanced Care Paramedic for the City of Hamilton Emergency Services. I am deeply honoured to accept the 2012 CPER Peer Paramedic Award of Excellence on behalf of CPER and my co-workers. I am presently living in the city of Hamilton with my wonderful wife and my two healthy beautiful daughters who make life very rewarding and enjoyable. This award would not be possible without the dedication and support I receive from my family, friends and co-workers. They have made me the caring and compassionate paramedic that I am today.

The knowledge and work experience I have gained all started back in 1993 when I became a part-time firefighter with the City of Stoney Creek. Here I realized that the medical portion peaked my interest and I took the opportunity to apply for the Ambulance and Emergency Care program at Niagara College in 1996. Since graduating from this program in 1997, I started my career as a paramedic in the town of Simcoe, Ontario. I was employed by the Green's Ambulance Service as a PCP. Within a year I became employed with the West Haldimand Ambulance Service in 1998 and worked within both services to maintain a somewhat full-time employment. These two services are where I gained a lot of my primary skills and knowledge that prepared me for the big city.

In 2000 I was hired with the city of Hamilton, and became full-time in 2002. While employed here I felt that the advanced care role was what really peaked my interest and I decided to apply to Niagara College in 2004. I was one of the first medics from outside of the Niagara Region to start this new and exciting program at Niagara College. Since graduating, I received my ACP certificate and was given an employment opportunity as an Advanced Care Paramedic with the City of Hamilton. To date I have a great respect for this new profession. So many patients that I have treated have benefited from my new scope of practice.

I feel that the future role of paramedicine will always require advanced skills in prehospital care. I am prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead in this ever changing healthcare profession. I look forward to serving the community for many years to come.

CPER Peer Paramedic
Award of Excellence



Jim MacIntosh

Advanced Care Paramedic
Guelph-Wellington EMS

Jim MacIntosh |

I want to thank my peers for nominating me for the 2012 CPER Peer Paramedic Award of Excellence and thanks to CPER for giving me this award!

It's been more than 31 years since I left Conestoga College as a fledgling paramedic though in those days we were called Ambulance driver/attendants. I was told we would be able to upgrade our skills in 6 months to "Paramedic"; although that option didn't happen for another 20 years.

I must admit the time has gone by very quickly and I have seen and done many things in this business, some wonderful and some tragic. Welcome to the world of Paramedics! I managed along with my partner to restart a man's heart and 4 years later I did it again to the same man, he was able to leave the hospital healthy both times, go figure! You tell me what job can be more rewarding than that?!

I have been involved in training Ambulance/Paramedic students since 1982, first as a preceptor then as a part time ACP instructor for Conestoga College. I worked for many years with Cambridge Base Hospital and now for CPER.

My work ethic has not changed in all that time thanks to my Christian faith. I believe that I am doing this job to help people and want to give them the best care that I possibly can. I have been able to stay with the job so long, in part, due to the love and the support of my wife Val of 36 years.



Paul Otterman

Primary Care Paramedic
Haldimand County EMS

Paul Otterman |

I retired at the end of June from the most interesting and rewarding job I could ever imagine. There have been many memorable moments. I have absolutely no regrets!

In the very early 70's, I was enrolled in a fine arts course at the Ontario College of Art. During the summer between my second and third year, a pioneer of ambulance services in Haldimand County, Mr. Richard C. Yeates ("Digger Dick"), saw something in me that I didn't know was there, and offered me a job with Yeates Ambulance Service.

During those early years, Digger Dick was insistent that I further my education in the field (He paid the tuition and covered my shifts to make it possible); Advanced First Aid, CPR, Fundamentals of Casualty Care (the "Camp Borden" course), and Niagara College. Continuing education has been a constant throughout.

To say that I've seen some changes in Paramedicine is a bit of an understatement. In the early days you couldn't even take a blood pressure as it was a delegated medical act. I was there for the transition from "ambulance driver" to "paramedic".

God has blessed me with the many things that made this career possible; from good employers, and good health, to the support of an amazing spouse.

I have also been blessed to have worked with some of the best paramedics in the field and I offer a grateful "Thank you" to them for the nomination, and to CPER, for this award.

CPER Peer Paramedic
Award of Excellence