



MEDIA RELEASE

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YRP HONOURS WAR VETERANS DURING YEAR OF THE VET

The Honourable Albina Guarnieri, Minister of Veterans Affairs, has declared 2005 the *Year of the Veteran* and York Regional Police is proud to participate and honour our veterans with flag-raising ceremonies throughout the region on Friday, July 22, 2005.

At 11 a.m., the *Year of the Veteran* flag will be raised at all York Regional Police stations throughout the region. A special ceremony will be held at York Regional Police Headquarters, 17250 Yonge Street in Newmarket, on the north side of the building in the police circle, and all are welcome to attend.

Members of York Regional Police, dignitaries and veterans will be in attendance to pay tribute to those Canadians who served during both World War I and II; the Korean War; veterans of the Canadian Forces and serving Canadian Forces members; nursing sisters, medical and support personnel and clergy who cared for veterans; civilians who served in close support of the military; and Canadians who supported the war effort on the home front.

"Each and every one of these individuals are heroes in life and in death," said York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge. "These flags will be flown out of our respect, admiration and gratitude to the men and women who gave us freedom and for those who serve today. It is true – we must never forget."

Every year is an important year to honour those who serve or have served and 2005 is especially meaningful because it marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Throughout the year, Canadians will celebrate, honour, remember and teach our young people about the contributions and sacrifice these heroes made.

"Today, we ask a new generation of Canadians to surrender their time, volunteer their hearts and take one year to fully remember a century of sacrifice. That year is 2005 – The Year of the Veteran," said Minister Guarnieri.

On Saturday, July 23, 2005, York Regional Police members, along with Chief La Barge and Police Services Board Chair David Barrow, will participate in a Veteran's Honour Ride which begins in Toronto and finishes at Richmond Green in the Town of Richmond Hill. For more information on the ride visit www.vhrf.com.

For more information on the flag-raising ceremony, contact Inspector Stan Colley at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7860.

For more information on the *Year of the Veteran*, visit www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/

Prepared by: Constable Kim Killby
July 18, 2005

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Distribution: Original: Corporate Communications

YRP383 (09/04E)