



WARRIORS' DAY PARADE COUNCIL

1921- 2018 ... 97 years ... and still marching
www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca



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For Immediate Release

To: News Editors

The 97th Annual Warriors' Day Parade will take place on Saturday, August 18th, 2018, 10:30am at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto.

More than 2,000 Veterans, military associations, currently serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces and allies along with members of police, fire and paramedic services will march into Exhibition Place through the historic Princes' Gates and along Princes' Boulevard to the sounds of military bands, pipes and drums, and cheering crowds.

Established in 1921, The Warriors' Day Parade is the longest-running Veteran's parade in the free world and offers a unique opportunity to honour and pay tribute to our Veterans and the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces. It is also an important day on which we remember those brave men and women who gave their lives in the defence of Canada and its allies.

This year we commemorate the **100th Anniversary of The End of World War 1**, which took place at 11:00am on November 11th, 1918. The First World War of 1914-1918 was the bloodiest conflict in Canadian history, taking the lives of nearly 61,000 Canadians. More than 630,000 Canadians served in the war, many of whom trained on the grounds of the Canadian National Exhibition. Tens of thousands of WWI Veterans marched in the Warriors' Day Parade for many years after the war ended.

We also commemorate the **70th Anniversary of the first UN Peacekeeping Mission (UNTSO) United Nations Truce Supervision Organization**. The UNTSO was founded on 29 May 1948 for peacekeeping in the Middle East. Since 1947 United Nations Forces have performed peacekeeping duties worldwide. Canada has played an important role in those activities, from the beginning and to date more than 100,000 Canadians have worn the blue beret. More than 100 have died "in the service of peace."

We are honoured to welcome to the 97th Warriors' Day Parade, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

We welcome our 2018 Reviewing Officer, General (retired) Walt Natynczyk CMM MSC CD, Deputy Minister, Veterans Affairs Canada.

We welcome this year's Honorary Parade Marshals, Captain (Retired) Mort Lightsone CD, Past President of the Warriors' Day Parade Council, Major (Retired) Wayne R. Mac Culloch, CD, B.Eng., M.Sc., P.Eng., National President, Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping and Sgt John Lo Bianco who will represent the over 3,000 Canadian police officers who have participated in more than 53 international peacekeeping missions.

The saluting dais will be located on the north side of Princes Blvd., just west of the Princes' Gates where the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and our Reviewing Officer will take the salute.

We welcome all participants including Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Afghanistan, other recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions. In addition we welcome police fire and paramedic services.

Many military bands, marching contingents and re-enactors from the United States and Canada will participate in the parade creating a unique spectacle. A number of historic vehicles and classic vehicles will also participate, providing rides to Veterans who wish to continue to participate in their parade.

Thanks to the Canadian National Exhibition, a large number of public seats will be available on the south side of Princes' Blvd. opposite the saluting dais, offering the public an up-close viewing experience as the parade marches past.

MWO Mark Stephens CD, President of the Warriors' Day Parade Council said "As we mark our 97th Anniversary we offer our sincere thanks to the many hard working volunteers who make the Parade possible each year. We also thank the Canadian National Exhibition for its tremendous commitment for the Warriors' Day Parade over the last 97 years. The year-round efforts of our volunteers are dedicated to all Veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces".

Marching contingents and Veterans will begin forming up at Gore Park beginning at 9:00am in preparation of the start of the parade at 10:30am. The Reviewing Officer and other VIP guests will greet Veterans from Sunnybrook Hospital, the Tony Stacey Centre and War Amps in the area surrounding the Saluting Dais beginning at 10:00am. Photo opportunities for the media will be available at these locations.

More information is available at www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca

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For further information, contact The Warriors' Day Parade Council:

John Hymers
Warrior's Day Parade Council
416-458-5286
email: wdparade@rogers.com

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