



WARRIOR'S DAY PARADE COUNCIL

1921– 2019 ... 98 years ... and still marching
www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca



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For Immediate Release

To: News Editors

The 98th Annual Warriors' Day Parade will take place on Saturday, August 17th, 2019, 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 **75th Anniversary of D-Day**, which took place on June 6th, 1944 when 150,000 allied forces including 14,000 Canadians invaded Western Europe along an 80-kilometre front in Normandy, France. They assaulted a beachfront code-named "Juno", while Canadian paratroopers landed just east of the assault beaches. Although the Allies encountered German defences bristling with artillery, machine guns, mines, and booby-traps, the invasion was a success leading to the end of World War II. Canadians suffered 1074 casualties, including 359 killed.

We also commemorate the **76th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Italian Campaign**, an important military effort for Canada during WWII. More than 93,000 Canadians, along with their allies from Great Britain, France and the United States, played a vital role. As they pushed from the south to the north of Italy over a 20-month period, Canadians faced difficult battles against some of the German army's best troops. They fought in the dust and heat of summer, the snow and cold of winter, and the rain and mud of the spring and fall. Canadian casualties in the Italian Campaign totalled more than 26,000, nearly 6,000 of which were fatal. Most of the Canadians who died in Italy are buried in the many Commonwealth war cemeteries there, or are commemorated on the Cassino Memorial, located in the Cassino War Cemetery south of Rome.

We welcome our 2019 Reviewing Officer, **Brigadier-General B.W.G. McPherson, CD Commandant of the Canadian Forces College**.

We welcome this year's Honorary Parade Marshals, Major Jim Parks (D-Day Veteran) and Tpr Ed Stafford (Italian Campaign Veteran).

The saluting dais will be located on the north side of Princes Blvd., just west of the Princes' Gates where Brigadier-General B.W.G. McPherson, CD 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 98th 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 98 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:

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