

OPP hosts retired members in celebration of new exhibit

Friends of The OPP Museum, in partnership with the Museum, are presenting two Meet our Veterans Days.

One will be this Saturday (July 5) and the other will be Aug. 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop by the Museum to meet and talk with OPP vets about their journeys in policing.

This Saturday, there will be five OPP retirees at the Museum.

Beloved Orillia retired Senior Constable Neil Hurtubise will be among the honoured guests. Hurtubise is well known to many for both his community volunteering and as the officer who was shot four times in 1981 by the men who had already killed Provincial Constable Richard Verdecchia.

Retired Staff Sergeant Ron Allen and his wife Sharon will also be on hand to share many stories from his time working undercover and with the Intelligence Bureau.

Retired Inspector and current OPP Veterans' Association President Bob Arbour and former Provincial Constable Liz Arbour will be there too. They continue to work tirelessly in support of fellow retired members and in support of the museum.

Retired Communications Operator Yolanda Sunnerton is also looking forward to sharing stories from her 36 years with OPP Records and as a 9-1-1 call taker and dispatcher.

The OPP Museum offers a unique perspective on the history of policing in Ontario. The current exhibit, Behind the Badge ? The Story of the Ontario Provincial Police, invites visitors to explore more than 100 years of proud policing tradition. Through all new displays, Behind the Badge examines what life was like in the early days of the force for officers and their families; explores OPP driven developments in investigation and forensic science; showcases uniform and insignia styles and recognizes significant milestones in the organization's development.

Kids are invited to put on a puppet show at the community theatre, solve the crime at the forensics worktables, read about what police officers do and engage in the many policing themed games and activities.

Visitors will be encouraged to try on a uniform for size and pause for a photo in the locker room. And don't forget the vintage vehicles also on display, including the fully restored 1931 Henderson motorcycle (the oldest original OPP vehicle) and Temagami ? OPP's first patrol boat which was launched in 1949.

The Museum is at 777 Memorial Ave. in Orillia.

Museum hours of operation these dates will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The regular hours are Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visit the Museum website at www.opp.ca/museum