



South Central Ontario

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London traffic safety officer making a difference

Wins award renamed in honour of recently deceased Toronto officer

(Thornhill, ON) As a strong advocate of traffic safety, each year CAA awards an outstanding police officer that consistently demonstrates his or her commitment and dedication to community service.

This year, London Police Service Sergeant Tom O'Brien has been chosen for his exceptional commitment to traffic safety through awareness, education and enforcement.

Among his accomplishments, Sgt. O'Brien launched a successful initiative dubbed Project S.O.S (Suspended drivers Off our Streets) that encouraged members of the public to call when they knew someone was driving without a license. As supervisor of the traffic management team in London, he's also made significant improvements to the R.I.D.E. program increasing the number of vehicles stopped by 26 per cent.

"The list of Sgt. O'Brien's accomplishments are never-ending and CAA is proud to say the city of London greatly benefits from his dedication to traffic safety programs, ultimately enhancing the quality of life in his community," said CAA SCO traffic safety specialist Leslie Rocha.

CAA, along with London Police Chief Murray Faulkner, will present the award Mon., Dec. 18.

"In policing it is always a challenge to find the right officer for various police functions. We certainly are lucky to have Sgt. O'Brien as our traffic Sergeant," said Chief Faulkner. "This is a well-deserved award."

Previously, the award was known as the Traffic Safety Officer of the Year, but this year CAA decided to rename it the James Sneep Community Service Award in honour of Unit Commander James Sneep who died from cancer in October of this year. The 30-year veteran of the Toronto Police Service was instrumental in establishing many of the youth and community programs within the city of Toronto we see today. The same programs have since been adopted by other major cities across North America and as far away as Australia.

Event details

When: Mon., Dec. 18, 1 p.m.

Where: London Police Headquarters, 601 Dundas Street, London ON, Classroom A

Editors please note: Members of the media are invited to attend the ceremony where there will be a photo opportunity and chance to speak with all the invited guests afterward.

CAA South Central Ontario is a not-for-profit auto club offering insurance, travel and emergency road services. There are 1.7 million CAA members in South Central Ontario and 4.8 million members in Canada.