



To say that the past year ushered in transformative change is an understatement. The “new normal” is now “the normal” as many comprehensive changes to everyday life have occurred.

The OPPYF volunteers have remained strongly engaged in our activities even though our main focus of improving the lives of youth in Ontario through contributions has paused. Despite this, our foundation is poised and ready to once again resume our efforts to identify those in need and provide support.

It is not clear at this time whether our schools will be fully opened although the Province has signaled that education of our youth will return to the classroom in September 2021 with some operational adjustments. With this in mind, we hope to be able to work with our OPP partners across the Regions and help those in need.

In 2021, we are again engaged with the Commissioner's Office to participate in the Memorial Bicycle Ride by providing bicycles and equipment to youth along the route. Frank Ryder is working closely with the event organizers to coordinate and ensure the OPPYF has an impactful presence during this event. In addition to this, Frank and Ruby are keeping the Youth Development Fund moving along and well poised to resume full operations.

The tireless efforts of Chris Seeley ensure that the bursary award program meets the challenges of today's reality and provides important assistance to students attending post-secondary institutions.

Fundraising is critical to our operation and once again, the OPP K-9 Calendar sales have exceeded all expectations. This popular item sold out in record time and we look forward to continuing this initiative with our OPP partners. The Pathway of Memories continues to provide a meaningful opportunity for anyone associated to the OPP to celebrate a connection with the organization while at the same time, contributing to our cause. I'd like to thank Dave Osborne and others who work to coordinate this program and to maintain the actual pathway in a manner that is inviting to visitors.

The development of our online presence and profile remains a key focus as we work to maintain and improve our strong footprint in the OPP and broader community landscapes. Our website development is crucial to this strategy as we continue to develop ways to engage both the public and our OPP partners (uniform, civilian & volunteers) to promote our values and activities.

The summer camp program was stalled again this year but we look forward to a strong showing in 2022 by providing this valuable opportunity to as many youth as possible.

Dave Lee, Inspector (retired) O.P.P.
Chair, OPP Youth Foundation