



**For Immediate Release**  
**September 5, 2023**

## **7th Annual Firefighter Bike Pilgrimage: A Journey of Remembrance and Unity**

**HAMILTON, ON**– The torch of remembrance and unity will light up as 74 firefighters, coming from Beckwith, Kingston, Hamilton, Markham, Montreal, Oakville, Oshawa, Ottawa, Stephenville NFLD, Toronto, Vaughn, and Whitby and gear up for a three-day, 575-kilometre bike ride. Led by the Toronto Professional Firefighter Celtic Society, they will be cycling from Hamilton to Ottawa’s National Firefighters Memorial from September 6-8, 2023, come wind, rain, or shine.

This pilgrimage, now in its 7th year, aims to raise funds and awareness for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF). As the country grapples with unprecedented wildfires, this ride amplifies the immense value and sacrifice of our firefighters, the majority of whom voluntarily serve their communities.

Among those to be remembered are Ottawa firefighter Ryan Hill, who tragically lost his life at 37 due to brain cancer linked to his service, Toronto Fire Captain Norman Sinclair, Toronto District Chief Chris Cochon, and Toronto Fire Captain Brad Andrews, among several others. Their names and the memories of 85 other heroes will be etched onto the Memorial Wall this year, joining over 2000 names of the brave dating back to the late 1800s.

The culmination of this journey is the National Firefighters Memorial in Ottawa on September 10, 2023. This sombre event of gratitude, honour and remembrance draws hundreds of firefighters across Canada and its territories, reflecting the strong bond that unites all in Canada’s fire service.

Having already raised \$300,000 to date, the goal for this year's ride is an ambitious \$100,000 for the CFFF.

David Cossitt, President of the Toronto Fire Celtic Society, said, “We greatly appreciate people cheering us along the route. Encouragement truly boosts our spirits. Donations can be made at [www.celticfireride.ca](http://www.celticfireride.ca), where supporters can pick a rider to contribute towards.”

Media are invited to join any stops along the three-day route, included below, for interview and photo opportunities:

#### **Day 1, Wednesday, September 6**

1. **Hamilton Fire Training Academy**, 1227 Stone Church Road, Hamilton

*Media availability for the start of Memorial Ride: 8:15 am - 8:45 am.*

2. **Oakville Fire Station 3**, 156 Kerr St., Oakville Arrival: 10:05 -10:25 am
3. **Toronto Fire Academy**, 895 Lakeshore Ave: 12:00 - 1:00 pm
4. **Whitby Fire Station 3**, 1501 Brock Street South, Whitby: 2:45-300 PM

#### **Day 2, Thursday, September 7**

1. **Best Western Cobourg**: 8:30 am
2. **Belleville Fire Station 1**, 60 Betts St.: 12:00 - 1:00 pm
3. **Napanee Fire Station 1**, 66 Advance Ave: 2:30 - 2:50 pm
4. **Kingston Fire Station 6**, 262 Palace Rd.: 4:30 pm

#### **Day 3, Friday, September 8**

1. **South Frontenac Fire Station**, 5855 Perth Rd.: 9:15 - 9:30 am
2. **Perth Fire Headquarters**, 1881 Rogers Rd.: 12:00 - 1:00 pm
3. **Ashton Brewing Company**: 2:30 – 3:00 pm
4. **Canadian Firefighter Memorial, 110 Lett Street, Ottawa**: 4:30 pm

**To download cue sheets & Garmin/Hammerhead/Whao files for turn-by-turn navigation:**

- Hamilton to Academy: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/43974183>
- Academy to Coburg: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/40412120>
- Coburg to Napanee, Kingston: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/40642630>
- Kingston to Ottawa: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/40642961>

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**Follow the Ride: [www.celticfireride.ca](http://www.celticfireride.ca)**

**Facebook: TPFCS Memorial Ride to Ottawa**

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