



HERITAGE AWARD RECIPIENT 2019

Myra G. James, Sergeant (retired)

Hamilton Police Service, Canada



The Heritage Award Purpose:

- acknowledge, chronicle, and pay tribute and gratitude for outstanding and dedicated service to the IAWP over a period of years and especially during milestones of the organization.
- will commemorate those who represent the legacy of the IAWP, the historical memory
- these leaders confront core goals & serve as tangible evidence the honor it is to serve IAWP

The Objectives of the Heritage Award:

- to recognize substantial and significant contributions to women police and the IAWP
- to ensure the recording and recognition of, and appreciation for, outstanding and dedicated service to IAWP over a period of years and especially during milestones of the organization.

Recipient:

Retired Sergeant Myra James has been a member of the IAWP since 1993 and a life member since 1994. As demonstrated here, she clearly fulfills both objectives of a Heritage Award nomination. Further, she epitomizes the Mission of the International Association of Women Police in her proactive commitment to strengthen, unite, and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally.

Myra's achievements specific to the Mission of IAWP:

- 1998 Leadership & Community Service Award Nominee from [IAWP Affiliate] Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE)
- 2001 IAWP Presidential Recognition Award
- 2003 IAWP Presidential Recognition Award
- 2004 IAWP Above & Beyond+certificate recipient
- 2005 OWLE Mentoring Award Recipient
- 2005 IAWP Mentoring Award Recipient

Myra's Police Agency Committee Involvement [women specific]:

- 2003-2004 Hamilton Police Service Maternity / Parental Leave Committee Member
- 2008-2015 Hamilton Police Service Women's Issues Committee Member

Myra's Club Memberships, Affiliations, Community Involvement [women police specific]:

1993 to present	IAWP Life member
1997 to present	Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) Life member; founding Vice-President; Treasurer, President, and member of the Board of Trustees
1997 to 2000	IAWP Conference Committee for Toronto 2000 as Chair of International Breakfast (to highlight Heritage Award) Chair of Firearms Competition
2000 to 2006	IAWP Region 11 Coordinator (Elected position)
2000s to present	Member of [IAWP Affiliate] Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement
2005	Lead on the initiative to host IAWP EBM 2005 in Niagara Falls, Canada
2004 to 2018	IAWP Affiliate Liaison (Presidential Appointment)
2006 to 2009	President Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE)
2007 (September)	Women In Law - Power to Build volunteer with Habitat for Humanity
2008 to 2009	Hamilton Police Service (HPS) 50th Anniversary of Women in Policing Committee
2009 to 2012	IAWP 2nd Vice President (Elected position)
2010 to 2014	Hamilton Status of Women Committee Member
2012 to 2016	Chair Women in Law BUILD partnership with Habitat for Humanity
2015	Story Contributor to IAWP Centenary Book <i>Yes You Can, Do Justice in the World'</i>
2015 to present	IAWP Editor of <i>WomenPolice</i> Magazine; in her first year, lead the search for a new publisher
2018 to present	Lead on the initiative to formalize bid for IAWP 2021 now in progress.

Myra's reflections:

As an experienced member of the Hamilton Police Service, when asked to reflect back on her career, Myra offered the following life lessons; she believes they can promote overall wellness and resiliency in women starting their policing careers. I submit that they describe a female police officer who, by her example, epitomizes the strength of her contribution to IAWP:

- Be as active as possible (on the road) with your colleagues; it engenders mutual respect
- Maintain the positive relationships you had prior to your police career
- Celebrate the success of others; it helps see the world in a positive & more balanced light
- Self-initiate building your own capacity; pre-plan and explore opportunities
- Participate in your community to see other perspectives of life
- Nurture your networks and follow up with leadership opportunities when they appear
- Identify a mentor with whom you can share your concerns, challenges and successes
- Understand that fitness and healthy nutrition can be life-saving practices too