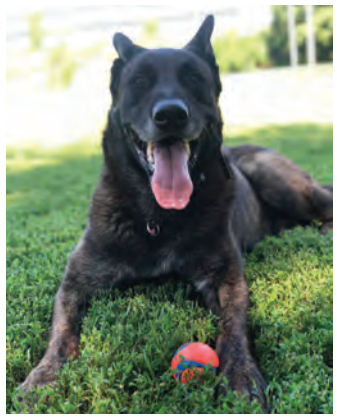
A Paw-sitive Legacy: How Ned's Wish Supports Retired K9 Officers

Did you know that most Canadian police agencies and even the Canadian Armed Forces have no aftercare funding for their retired Canine Officers? These publicly funded agencies, stretched by limited taxpayer dollars, often struggle to allocate enough funds to maintain their working dogs, let alone support them after retirement. For larger organizations like the Toronto Police Service (TPS), York Regional Police (YRP), Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and the RCMP, this leaves their canine veterans without a financial safety net after years of dedicated service.

That's where Ned's Wish steps in to bridge the gap. As Canada's only organization supporting retired police and military service dogs, Ned's Wish offers essential financial assistance, ensuring these canine heroes experience the quality of life they've earned.

Police and military dogs typically have work-focused lives from early training at one year, with working careers spanning six to nine years. When they retire, often due to age or health issues, the toll of their service stays with them. The physically demanding nature of police work leaves many retired service dogs with chronic medical issues. These health concerns impact their quality of life and result in high medical costs. Ned's Wish is a vital lifeline for these four-legged heroes, stepping in to cover these medical expenses and allowing these dogs to experience comfort, care, and security in their golden years.

PSD MAJOR - TORONTO PS © IMAGES COURTESY OF NED'S WISH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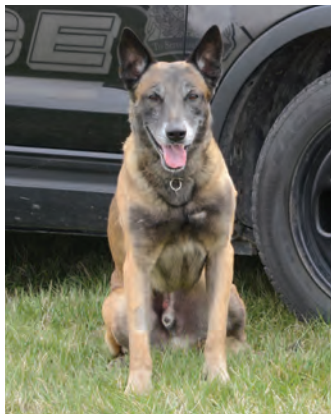
PSD ARRY - CHATHAM KENT PS

HONOURING OUR CANINE HEROES

PSD Major served with the Toronto Police Service and rose to fame when he helped locate the remains of Bruce McArthur's eight victims, a notorious case that shook the Greater Toronto Area. His work was even featured on CTV's W5 series in an episode titled "Sniffing Out Crime," highlighting his incredible skill and dedication. During Major's career, he was diagnosed with a heart condition and IBS that required regular medications and vet visits. Both Major and his handler retired together in 2021 and since then Major's medical expenses have exceeded $10,000. Thanks to the generous support of Ned's Wish donors, Major's healthcare needs are covered so that he can enjoy the peaceful, well-deserved retirement he earned.

MWD Wodan is a retired Malinois who served with the Canadian Armed Forces for eight years, participating in high-risk deployments abroad where he protected his handler and teammates. Like most Malinois, Wodan operates at two speeds: "full on" and "recharging for full on." Since his retirement in 2022, Wodan has struggled with an injury to his toenail, which eventually revealed a more serious problem—a tumour that required toe removal and a lymphadenectomy. Currently, Ned's Wish is fundraising to cover Wodan's $6,000 medical costs to ensure his golden years are as rewarding as his dedicated service.

While Ontario police service dogs represent a smaller portion of Ned's Wish beneficiaries, the organization has paid over $70,000 in medical expenses for these courageous dogs, including PSD Arry, a "Super Dog" who served with Chatham Kent Police Service. Through donor support, Ned's Wish ensures that Arry and other Ontario-based service dogs receive the aftercare they need to thrive in retirement.

HOLIDAYS FOR HEROES

This holiday season, a donation to Ned's Wish can make a unique and meaningful gift in honour of a friend, family member, or beloved pet. By contributing to Ned's Wish, you're helping ensure that retired police and military dogs get the care they need to enjoy the retirement they deserve.

They save our lives—now it's time to return the favour.

Learn more and donate at
nedswish.com