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## VISITATION, FUNERAL SET FOR OFFICER

York Regional Police have announced full details about the funeral for Const. Garrett Styles, killed in the line of duty Tuesday.

Visitation will be Monday at Jerrett Funeral Home, Vaughan Chapel, 8088 Yonge St. in Thornhill, from 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

A full police funeral will be held Tuesday at 1 p.m., at the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex, 100 Eagle St. W., in Newmarket.

The police procession will be along Yonge, south from Davis Drive to Eagle, and will take place prior to the funeral. It's expected to begin at 10:30 a.m.

The visitation and funeral are open to the public, however police anticipate thousands of officers from across North America will attend the funeral and public seating inside won't be available.

A trust account in the name of Melissa Styles, the officer's widow, has been established.

Const. Styles leaves behind Melissa and two children, a 2-1/2-year-old daughter and nine-week-old son.

Visit [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com) for more details and coverage.

'WHEN ONE FALLS, EVERYONE STUMBLES': RETIRED COP

# Policing feels loss of York constable

BY CHRIS TRABER  
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Few outside the kindred band of blue know the emotions evoked when a police comrade is felled in the line of duty.

Upon learning York Regional Police Const. Garrett Styles, 32, died after being dragged and pinned under a vehicle during an early Tuesday morning traffic stop, fellow officers, retired and active, expressed their dismay, despair and condolences.

Retired Ontario Provincial Police superintendent and current Bradford West Gwillimbury Ward 2 Councillor Del Crake said he felt "complete and utter sorrow" when he heard the news.

"I felt like crying," the 32-year OPP veteran said. "There is nothing as grievous as the death of an officer. When an officer goes out on duty, they have absolutely no knowledge whether they'll come home or not. That's especially hard on their family."

"The public simply doesn't understand that aspect of it."

Police officers know there are daily, inherent dangers, Mr. Crake said. Still, when tragedy strikes, the

impact is as traumatic as the loss of a family member.

"Especially for those close to the individual," he said. "It's very stressful."

Police forces offer counselling for staff traumatized by disturbing situations, he said.

Retired Elliot Lake Police chief Doug Strong worked with Const. Styles' father, Garry, during his York Regional Police tenure, beginning in 1984. An East Gwillimbury resident and bylaw enforcement officer for the town, Mr. Strong knows precisely and painfully where Tuesday's tragedy took place.

"Garry was one of our best officers," he said, his voice quivering. "The Styles are a close, good family. This is a heartbreaker for all. Our hearts go out to the family."

Mr. Strong did not know Const. Styles well, but fellowship of the force causes tears to flow.

"It's devastating," he said, haltingly. "Most police officers' deaths are the result of a stupid, needless action. In this case, I understand it was a 15-year-old in a stolen vehicle. It's brutal."

The tragedy reminds Mr. Strong how fortunate a cop is to retire in



MORLEY LYMBURNER: Stouffville police magazine publisher says civilians can't comprehend danger.

health.

"It reminds us of how lucky we really are," he said. "I've been stabbed and hit by my own cruiser when it was stolen. Then you wake up and hear how a beautiful young life is gone. It's a waste."

Former Metro Toronto Police sergeant and Newmarket resident Jim McLean retired in 2008 after 35 years with the force. An angry expletive was

his first reaction when he heard Const. Styles died.

"After 35 years, you get out relatively unscathed and then one of our own goes so young," he said. "It hits hard. Policing is one big family. When one falls, everyone stumbles."

Colleagues immediately think of the family, he said.

"And, of course, there but for the grace of God go I," he added.

The perilous job of policing creates a special bond among fellow officers, Mr. McLean said. Risk is part of the duty and worry for loved ones is the byproduct.

"Every time there's a line-of-duty death, you feel for the family," he said. "I remember the days when I would be late getting home. I would always call and tell the family."

Most civilians don't comprehend the precarious nature of the profession, Stouffville's Blue Line Magazine publisher and former police officer Morley Lymburner said.

The stereotypical danger is perceived as gun fire, he said. Motor vehicle incidents and the sad aftermath aren't usually top of mind.

"I have seldom heard of a more

tragic death of a police officer," Mr. Lymburner said, referring to Const. Styles' death.

Most people think of officers being killed by the use of a firearm in a shootout with some gangsters.

This tragedy brings home the reality that most officers are killed as a result of incidents involving motor vehicles.

This is the third York Regional Police officer to die directly or indirectly as the result of a motor vehicle collision, he said. There's a message in the mayhem.

"Just because the motor vehicle has become a normal part of our lives, we must never underestimate the damage it can bring to all of us," he said.

Mr. McLean continues as a member of the Toronto police chief's ceremonial unit.

He plans to take part in services for the young officer.

Tuesday's catastrophe jogged his recollections.

"There were a lot of situations when I'd get home from a shift and ask, 'How the heck did that happen?' I guess my guardian angel was on duty. This morning, a guardian angel went for coffee."

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