

## **Officer Down**

### **Transforming Loss into Safer Workplaces**

In September 2000, Cst. Petropoulos was investigating a break and enter complaint at a warehouse when he stepped through a false ceiling, fell nine feet into the lunchroom below and succumbed to brain injuries. There was no safety railing in place to warn him of the danger. The break and enter turned out to be a false alarm; there was no intruder in the building. John was 32.

So began Maryanne Pope's journey of coming to terms with her husband's death and working with the John Petropoulos Memorial Fund (JPMF) to raise public awareness about workplace safety for emergency services workers.

Maryanne's heartfelt and personal presentation is a powerful, candid and gripping account of the days leading up to John's fall, the circumstances that led to his death, and her experience of learning how to accept the unacceptable by transforming loss into positive change both through her writing and through the safety initiatives of the JPMF.

*"Maryanne's passion for the subject of workplace safety is evident and had a room full of people absolutely silent when she spoke of her experience."*

Sarah King, 2009 NAOSH Week Edmonton  
Committee Co-chair

*"A heartfelt and emotional tale of desperate sorrow turned into inspiration as Maryanne used the passion of her lost love and her eloquence to reach out and touch the hearts of hardened police veterans – not an easy feat."*

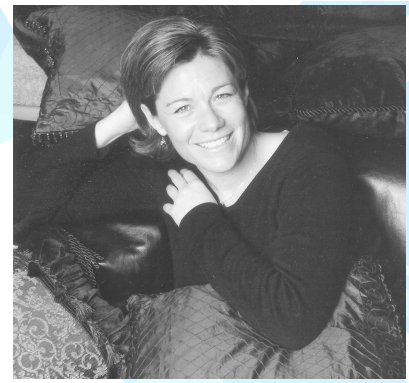
Mike Turcotte, Calgary Police Veterans Association

*"We deeply appreciated your efforts in making the Calgary NAOSH event outstanding. Your presentation helped to impress attendees with practical ways they can 'make it home safe every day,' which was this year's theme. We received many positive comments regarding your presentation – thank you for your efforts."*

Ronald Waters, Chair 2009 CSSE NAOSH  
Calgary Conference and Trade Show

### **To book Maryanne, please contact:**

John Petropoulos Memorial Fund  
(250) 654-0606  
[maryanne@jpmf.ca](mailto:maryanne@jpmf.ca)



### **About Maryanne**

Author of the book *A Widow's Awakening*, Maryanne Pope also writes screenplays, play scripts, short stories, and articles. She is a workplace safety advocate, environmental educator and inspirational speaker, as well as the founder and CEO of Pink Gazelle Productions Inc. Maryanne is the board chair of the John Petropoulos Memorial Fund and the executive producer of the *Put Yourself in Our Boots* safety campaign. She lives on Vancouver Island, BC.

### **Attendees take away the following from Maryanne's presentation:**

- The personal impacts of a workplace fatality
- Why and how to make workplaces safer for emergency responders
- Safety in the workplace is a human issue and not just a policy
- Public education plays a key role in reducing workplace near-misses, injuries, and fatalities for emergency responders

### **This presentation is well suited for the following audiences:**

- Workplace / occupational health and safety personnel
- Government representatives
- Corporate/business employees
- Secondary and post-secondary students
- Emergency Services Personnel  
Police / Fire / EMS / Armed Forces
- Public Affairs and Education departments

