

Ted Thornley began his policing career with the Waterloo Regional Police Force in 1973, and began his association involvement as editor of the association's magazine The Beat. In 1982 he became a Director and in 1985 was appointed Vice-President. Three years later he was elected President of the Waterloo Regional Police Association. Ted was at the helm of the Association for more than 12 years until his unexpected and untimely death in December 2000.

In 1995 Ted joined the Police Association of Ontario (PAO) Board of Directors and a year later was elected Board Chair. He also served as PAO President on three separate occasions; a position he held at the time of his death. During his tenure, his strength and voice guided the PAO through many difficult times yet he never faltered in his fight to improve the working conditions, benefits and safety of his members. Ted Thornley's values of co-operation, accountability, unity and his remarkable leadership earned him the respect and admiration of the entire police community.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership, Ted was posthumously selected as a recipient of the Police Association of Ontario's Dennis R. Latten Award in 2001, and in 2003 the Waterloo Regional Police Association's Lounge was renovated and named in his memory.

As an association executive, his knowledge, passion, integrity and commitment strengthened the police profession at the local, provincial and federal levels; an accomplishment that remains his legacy.