

05-27-2017 Fryeburg, ME - Nathan Desjardins – LEO River Rescue Attempt



Bio & Incident Details
Age: 20
Tour: 3 months
Badge # Not available
Cause: Boating accident
Incident Date: 5/27/2017

Police Officer

Nathan Michael Desjardins

Fryeburg Police Department, Maine

End of Watch: Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Police Officer Nathan Desjardins succumbed to injuries sustained on May 27th, 2017, in a boating accident on the Saco River.

He was participating in his first day of water rescue training when he and his training officer were dispatched to assist with the rescue of three boaters who had been thrown overboard when their canoes capsized. One of the missing boaters drowned during the incident.

Officer Desjardins' patrol boat struck a submerged object in the water as it came around a bend in the river. Both officers were thrown overboard and Officer Desjardins suffered a severe head injury.

Both officers were flown to Central Maine Medical Center where Officer Desjardins remained in a coma until succumbing to his injuries on June 6th, 2017.

Officer Desjardins served as a part-time officer with the Fryeburg Police Department for three months and was a full time student at the University of New England. He is survived by his parents and brother.

Critically hurt Maine police officer suffered head injury

<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2017/05/29/2-maine-police-officers-hurt-1-critical-after-boat-crash>

May 29, 2017 AP

FRYEBURG, Maine (AP) — The family of Maine police officer in critical condition two days after being injured when he was thrown from boat on the Saco River says the 20-year-old officer suffered “intensive head trauma.”

In a statement released Monday to the media, the family of Fryeburg Officer Nathan Desjardins said his mother, father and older brother are with him. Desjardins, who is going into his senior year at the University of New England, is in critical condition.

Desjardins was injured Sunday along with another officer who suffered less serious injuries as they responded to reports of a missing canoeist. The Maine Warden Service says the boat hit something.

Meanwhile, high water hampered the search for 38-year-old Jennifer Bousquet, of South Berwick. Wardens say the search is now a recovery operation.

Officer dies of injury suffered during boat rescue

<http://bangordailynews.com/2017/06/07/news/state/officer-injured-in-fryeburg-boating-crash-dies/>
June 07, 2017 By [CBS 13](#)

FRYEBURG, Maine — A 20-year-old Fryeburg officer who had been on the job 3 months has died after suffering a severe head injury in a boating crash. The Fryeburg Police Department said Nathan Desjardins died Tuesday at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

Officer Desjardins had only been on the job for three months and Chief Joshua Potvin said it was his first day of water rescue training.

He and another officer were thrown from a boat during a rescue on the Saco River over Memorial Day weekend.

Officials said three people in two canoes capsized on the water.

One of those boaters died.

Officer Desjardins and Officer Dale Stout responded to the scene when their boat hit something, throwing them into the water.

Officer Stout was also hurt, but was released from the hospital last week.

"In the course of a police officer's responsibilities, they expose themselves to very real risks and dangers every day," Chief Potvin said in a statement. "Members of the Fryeburg Police Department are deeply saddened by the tragic death of our colleague. We offer our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family, fellow colleagues and friends of Nathan."

FRYEBURG POLICE MOURN THE DEATH OF OFFICER

[HTTP://WWW.CONWAYDAILYSUN.COM/NEWSX/131695-FRYEBURG-POLICE-MOURN-THE-DEATH-OF-OFFICER](http://www.conwaydailysun.com/newsx/131695-fryeburg-police-mourn-the-death-of-officer)

June 7, 2017 **By Daymond Steer** Published in Local News

FRYEBURG — “With great sadness and a heavy heart” Police Chief Joshua Potvin said in a written statement that 20-year-old officer Nathan Desjardins died Tuesday in the hospital after sustaining injuries during a Saco River rescue attempt this month.

On May 27, the two Fryeburg Police officers, Dale Stout, 51, and Nathan Desjardins, 20, struck an object in the water with their jet boat while they were attempting to join a Maine Warden Service search to find missing canoeist Jennifer Bousquet, 38, of South Berwick, Maine.

Bousquet was canoeing with Wayne Demers, 62, of Somersworth and her boyfriend, Bryan Day, 54, of South Berwick, Maine, when their two canoes capsized.



Nathan Desjardins

Bousquet’s body was located on May 30, 35 yards from where she was last seen in the canoe.

On Wednesday, Potvin released a written statement saying that the Fryeburg Police Department extends its “prayers and deepest sympathy” to Desjardins’ friends, family and co-workers, Desjardins died at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

“In the course of a police officer’s responsibilities, they expose themselves to very real risks and dangers every day,” said Potvin. “Members of the Fryeburg Police Department are deeply saddened by the tragic death of our colleague. We offer our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family, fellow colleagues and friends of Nathan.

“During this extremely difficult time of mourning the loss of one of my own, I have to find the words and strength to inspire my officers, to motivate them and reassure them that together we will be okay and still have a job to do. I ask that you keep Officer Desjardin’s family in your thoughts and prayers as well as our law enforcement and first responder community during this extremely difficult time.”

Fellow Fryeburg Police Officer Michelle Legare set up two Go Fund Me Pages, one for each officer and their families, on June 2. As of Wednesday afternoon, the page for Desjardins had raised \$3,595 of its \$25,000 goal. The page for Stout raised \$980 of its \$10,000 goal.

The Go Fund Me Page for Stout notes he will be on a long road to recovery.

Published reports say that Desjardins was new to Fryeburg Police.

“On behalf of your fellow brothers and sisters at Fryeburg Police; rest in peace buddy, we’ll take it from here,” said Potvin.

Hero Down: Fryeburg Police Officer Nathan Desjardins Succumbs To Injuries

[HTTPS://BLUELIVESMATTER.BLUE/FRYEBURG-OFFICER-NATHAN-DESJARDINS/](https://bluelivesmatter.blue/fryeburg-officer-nathan-desjardins/)

JUNE 8, 2017 BY COWGIRL

Fryeburg, ME – Fryeburg Police Officer Nathan Desjardins has died from injuries that he received in a May 27, 2017 boating crash while searching for a missing canoeist.

Officer Nathan Desjardins, 20, and Fryeburg Police Officer Dale Stout were in a police boat on Memorial Day weekend attempting to locate Jennifer Bosquet, age 38, whose canoe had capsized. During the search, the officers’ boat hit an object in the Saco River while coming around a corner.



***Fryeburg Officer Nathan Desjardins
EOW 06/06/2017
Officer Nathan Desjardins Dies***

Both Officer Desjardins and Officer Stout were ejected. The officers sustained serious injuries and were airlifted to Central Maine Medical Center, according to [WSCH6](#). Officer Stout was released from the hospital last week while Officer Desjardins remained in critical condition with a severe head injury.

In Memoriam Officer Nathan Desjardins

[HTTPS://WWW.LAWENFORCEMENTTODAY.COM/MEMORIAM-OFFICER-NATHAN-DESJARDINS/](https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/memoriam-officer-nathan-desjardins/)

JUNE 8, 2017 Patrick Sharkey

Chief Joshua Potvin, of the Fryeburg Police Department in Maine sadly reports the death of Officer Nathan Desjardins.

Officer Desjardins, 20, was working with his field training officer, Dale Stout, on water rescue training over Memorial Day weekend. During their training, they were dispatched to assist with the rescue of three individuals whose canoes had capsized.

Desjardins’ and Stout’s patrol boat struck a submerged object as they were coming around a curve in the river. Both officers were thrown from the vessel.



Desjardins sustained a severe head injury upon landing in the water. Stout was also injured. Both officers were flown via LifeFlight to Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston for treatment.

Stout was released after four days. Desjardins remained in a coma in the intensive care unit. His condition deteriorated and he succumbed to his head injuries ten days after the accident.

The boating accident is being investigated by Conservation Officers from the Maine Warden Service.

Nathan Desjardins served the Fryeburg Police Department for three months. He is survived by his parents and brother.

Officer Nathan Desjardins is gone, but will never be forgotten. EOW: Tuesday, June 6, 2017. *(Graphics courtesy Rose Borisow GrafX)*

Young Fryeburg officer remembered as 'caretaker' who loved being a cop

<http://bangordailynews.com/2017/06/10/news/state/young-fryeburg-officer-remembered-as-caretaker-who-loved-being-a-cop/>

June 10, 2017 By Nick McCrea, BDN Staff

FRYEBURG, Maine — Growing up in Fairfield, Nathan Desjardins was the type of kid who stood up for his classmates, according to his former teacher.

Before he became a police officer, Desjardins was seen by teachers and fellow students in school as a "caretaker." He regularly intervened on behalf of bullied students, and ensured that special-needs classmates felt included and weren't teased in class, according to Mike McGee, Desjardins' former physical education teacher at Fairfield's Lawrence Junior High School.

"He was probably one of the finest individuals I've been around in 35 years," said McGee, who is retiring at the end of this school year. "His heart is the size of a gymnasium."



**Fryeburg Police Department
Nathan Desjardins**

McGee, a former longtime high school varsity basketball and junior high cross country coach, never coached Desjardins, but did have him as a student in his physical education class.

“He put himself last and put the needs of others first,” McGee said of Desjardins. “He would always pick up the underdog.”

Desjardins, 20, died Tuesday of injuries he [suffered in a boat crash](#) on Memorial Day weekend while trying to rescue boaters whose canoe capsized during Desjardins’ first day of water rescue training with Fryeburg Police Department. A second officer, who was operating the boat when it struck an obstacle tossing both men into the water, was injured but has since been released from the hospital.

Desjardins had been working for the department for about three months. The body of one of the canoeists, Jennifer Bousquet, 38, of South Berwick, was found later that day by a diver. A man in the canoe made it to shore safely.

“He died trying to save someone,” McGee said of Desjardins. “That’s him to a ‘T.’” Sen. Scott Cyrway, R-Benton, a friend of the Desjardins family, said the young officer came from a law enforcement background and was raised a “good, squared-away kid.” Both his mother and father have worked in law enforcement, according to Cyrway.

“He just loved the idea of being an officer and would have [had a great career],” Cyrway said. “I think he just wanted to be in a position to help people in his community.”

Desjardins was a nursing student at the University of New England in Biddeford. The university issued a statement earlier this week expressing condolences to his family.

“It was his passion for helping people that made him a gifted nursing student, and he will always be part of the UNE family,” university officials said.

People who knew Desjardins and his family said he’s left a lasting mark.

“He’ll always be at the back of my mind,” Cyrway said.

Funeral arrangements are still being made, according to Fryeburg Police Department. *Follow Nick McCrea on Twitter at [@nmccrea213](#).*

Tribute set for fallen Fryeburg police officer

<http://www.bridgton.com/tribute-set-for-fallen-fryeburg-police-officer/>

June 15th, 2017

A Law Enforcement Tribute will be held for fallen Fryeburg Police Officer Nathan M. Desjardins this Friday, June 16 at 10 a.m. at the Augusta Civic Center.

The law enforcement community will pay tribute to Officer Desjardins, who died in the line of duty from injuries sustained in a boat crash on May 27, 2017 while responding to a call of a missing canoeist on the Saco River.

Officer Desjardins is Maine's 85th law enforcement line-of-duty death.

Friday's Law Enforcement Tribute, expected to be about an hour in length, will take place inside the Augusta Civic Center and will be considered a private event per the wishes of the Desjardins family.

An outdoor location will be designated for media and will provide opportunity for viewing outdoor ceremonial phases. Immediately following the Tribute, Fryeburg Police Chief Joshua Potvin, Maine Warden Service Colonel Joel Wilkinson and Maine State Police Colonel Robert Williams will provide statements regarding the Law Enforcement Tribute for Officer Nathan Desjardins.

A large contingency of law enforcement and emergency services personnel from Maine and around the country are expected to take part in the Tribute.

Officer Desjardins, 20, passed away last Tuesday, June 6, at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston as the result of injuries sustained during the Saco River rescue attempt.



**Fryeburg Police Officer
Nathan Desjardins**



"It is with great sadness and heavy heart that the members of the Fryeburg Police Department extend its prayers and deepest sympathy to the family, friends and co-workers of Officer Nathan M. Desjardins," Fryeburg Police Chief Joshua Potvin announced in a statement last week. "Nathan was on duty, serving the citizens of Fryeburg, doing his job and responding to a public call for help. In the course of a police officer's responsibilities, they expose themselves to very real risks and dangers every day. Members of the Fryeburg Police Department are deeply saddened by the tragic death of our colleague. We offer our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family, fellow colleagues and friends of Nathan."

Chief Joshua Potvin added, "During this extremely difficult time of mourning the loss of one of my own, I have to find the words and strength to inspire my officers, to motivate them and reassure them that together we will be okay and still have a job to do. I ask that you keep Officer Desjardin's family in your thoughts and

prayers as well as our law enforcement and first responder community during this extremely difficult time.”

The chief concluded his statement with, “On behalf of your fellow brothers and sisters at Fryeburg Police; rest in peace buddy, we’ll take it from here.”

A student at the University of New England, Nathan was enrolled in the nursing program. University of New England President Danielle Ripich released the following statement:

“The University of New England is deeply saddened at the news that Nathan Desjardins, a nursing student here at UNE, has died. Nate lost his life while working to save others in his duties as a Fryeburg police officer. It was his passion for helping people that made him a gifted nursing student, and he will always be part of the UNE family. Our deepest condolences go out to his family.”

U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King released a joint statement saying, “We are deeply saddened to learn of Nathan’s passing. Nathan bravely put himself in harm’s way to serve and protect the community he loved. Today, we join with the people of Maine in mourning his loss, but we will always recall with gratitude in our hearts his selfless service to our state.”

More Than 1K Officers Pay Tribute to Fallen Maine Officer

<http://www.necn.com/news/new-england/More-Than-1K-Officers-Pay-Tribute-to-Fallen-Maine-Officer-428935213.html>

Jun 16, 2017 By [Danielle Waugh](#)

More than 1,000 law enforcement officers from around New England paid tribute to Fryeburg Police Officer Nathan Desjardins

A 20-year-old police officer, critically injured his first day in the field, was remembered in Augusta, Maine, Friday morning.

More than 1,000 law enforcement officers from around New England paid tribute to Fryeburg Police Officer Nathan Desjardins, who died attempting to save a drowning woman on the Saco River Memorial Day weekend.

“Your professionalism, dedication, enthusiasm, and ultimate personal sacrifice will never be forgotten,” said Fryeburg Police Chief Joshua Potvin.

Desjardins was one of two officers in a police boat crash in May. They were assisting the Maine Warden Service, responding to a report of capsized canoeists. The other Fryeburg officer was injured, but released from the hospital. Desjardins suffered serious head injuries, and died in the hospital on June 6.

“You can’t subtract the pain of this. All you can do is add love,” said Joel Wilkinson, Colonel of the Maine Warden Service.

Desjardins is the 85th Maine officer to be killed in the line of duty – and is one of, if not the youngest officer on that list, according to the spokesman for the Maine Department of Public Safety, Steve McCausland.

“Nathan had a hero heart, and Nathan passed away with a hero heart,” said longtime friend Brooke Arthers. She grew up with Desjardins, and was his date to their high school prom.

“He always wanted to help everyone, just go above and beyond,” she remembered.

Desjardins was a rising senior at the University of New England, where he was pursuing a degree in nursing. Committed to public service, he also worked as an EMT, volunteer firefighter, and part-time police officer, while going to school.

“It’s such a loss because he was the type of person who truly could have saved a life,” said Arthers.

The cause of the boat crash that injured Desjardins is still under investigation.

Hundreds gather to honor Fryeburg Officer Nathan Desjardins

<http://www.wmtw.com/article/fryeburg-officer-nathan-desjardins-to-be-honored-at-public-service/10016706>

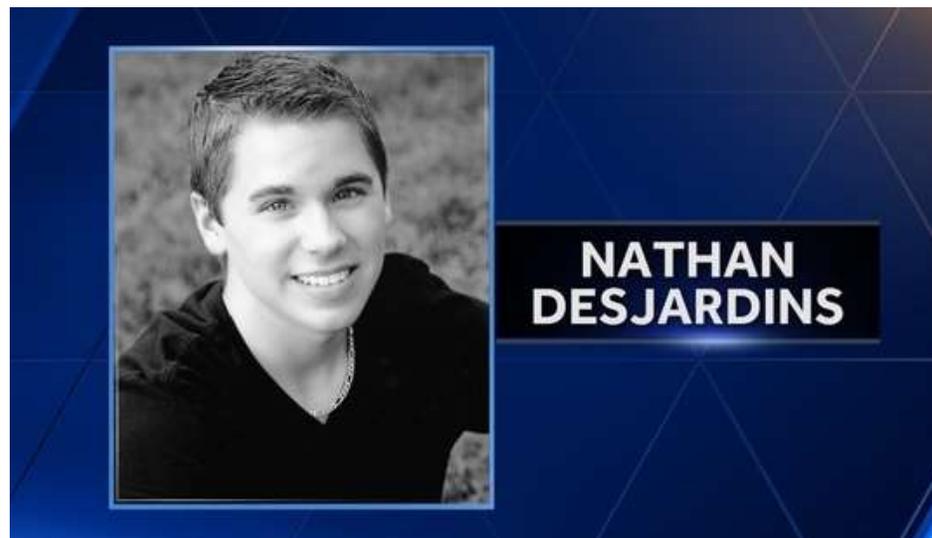
Jun 16, 2017

AUGUSTA, Maine — Hundreds of members of law enforcement honored the Fryeburg police officer who died of injuries suffered in a Memorial Day weekend boating.

A public tribute was held for Officer Nathan Desjardins, 20, Friday morning at the Augusta Civic Center.

The memorial included remarks from his police chief, his father and his brother. The gathering exceeded 1,000 people.

Desjardins and Officer Dale Stout were thrown from their boat on



Memorial Day weekend while responding to the search for a missing canoeist on the Saco River.

Desjardins died June 6 at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

Stout was treated and released from the hospital.

Officer critically injured in Fryeburg boating accident dies

Desjardins was a nursing student at the University of New England. He was going into his senior year in the fall.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday morning in Waterville. A celebration of life will follow at Notre Dame Catholic Church Hall.