



NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

PARAMEDICS RECOGNIZE COUPLE'S CPR ACTIONS

NORTH VANCOUVER – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) will present local business owners, a husband and wife team, with Vital Link Awards tomorrow to recognize their actions which saved a customer's life.

“Eight in 10 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home and bystander CPR is performed in only about 15 per cent of cases in British Columbia,” said BCAS Superintendent Buck Black. “Bystander recognition of cardiac arrest symptoms, calling 911 and performing CPR provides a patient with the best possible chance of survival.”

On September 9, 2008, retired police officer Ted Hayward went into the local IGA for some fruit before heading to the gym. As he was leaving the store, he collapsed in the doorway. Owner Kristine Smith ran to him and noticed that he was grey, he did not have a pulse and he was not breathing. She immediately started chest compressions and told someone to call 911 immediately. Her husband Kelly arrived on the scene and took over chest compressions while Kristine performed the breaths until BCAS paramedics arrived.

“I've stayed fit my whole life and have been a vegetarian for many years and was surprised to learn that I'd had a cardiac arrest,” said Hayward. “I was told that I didn't have a pulse for five minutes - I'm very lucky that Kristine and Kelly were there to start CPR while paramedics were enroute.”

A cardiac arrest victim is four times more likely to survive if they receive bystander CPR, however, this basic procedure is not performed in approximately 85 per cent of all cardiac arrest cases. For every minute that passes without help, a person's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest drops by about 10 per cent.

The BCAS Vital Link Award is presented to individuals who are involved in successful CPR efforts. Aside from providing some much-deserved recognition, the award is an opportunity to promote community awareness about the benefits of learning CPR.

The Vital Link Award will be presented to the Smiths on Feb. 4, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at the IGA at 130-150 Esplaade W. in North Vancouver by BCAS Superintendent Buck Black and the attending paramedic John Mckinlay. Ted Hayward will also be present.

February is Heart and Stroke Month. Learn CPR today.

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