
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
December 4, 2007

BC Ambulance Service

CFB ESQUIMALT LEADING SEAMAN IS VITAL LINK FOR STRANGER

ESQUIMALT – The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented Leading Seaman Jason Sarrazin with a Vital Link Award to recognize his life saving actions at a special ceremony at the BC Ambulance Service Vancouver Island HQ's on Tuesday the 4th December.

On September 28, 2007 Sarrazin was getting out of his car when the shouts of women caught his attention and he noticed an elderly man collapsed on the side of the road. Instructing someone to call 911, Sarrazin quickly assessed the man and recognized that Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) needed to be started.

“We know that even with the best technology, medical expertise and timely deployment of first responders, the best chance for someone in cardiac arrest is still to have a bystander perform CPR until paramedics arrive,” said Les Cleverly, Superintendent for the BCAS. “I have no doubt that his efforts helped save this man.”

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

“I was proud I was able to help him,” said Sarrazin. “It made me very thankful that throughout the years the navy has helped me stay updated on my CPR. You really never know when you will need it.”

Cardiovascular disease is the second leading cause of death and accounts for more than one-fifth of all deaths in B.C. A cardiac arrest victim is four times more likely to survive if CPR is administered while waiting for further medical care.

The award was presented by BCAS Superintendents Les Cleverly and Grant Brilz. The BCAS also recognized Retired Corporal Richard Fraser at the ceremony with a Good Samaritan award for stopping at the scene, calling 911, and providing accurate and timely information.

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Contact: Sarah Taylor
Communications Officer
250-953-3125