
NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

COLLEAGUE PERFORMS CPR ON TEENAGE WORKER

VERNON- The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) is presenting 19 year old Matt Antle with a Vital Link Award to recognize his life saving actions. The presentation is being held in conjunction with the Grade 10 academic awards ceremony at Kalamalka Secondary School on February 12 at 9:15am.

“On behalf of the Province, I’d like to commend Matt for his quick thinking and the application of this life-saving skill,” said Tom Christensen, MLA for Okanagan -Vernon. “Government is pleased to partner with the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation to offer free CPR to secondary school students across the province.”

On August 3, 2007, Antle was working alongside his colleague, Celine Kennett, at the local bakery in Vernon. Kennett, a 17 year old Kalamalka Secondary School pupil, collapsed suddenly. Antle quickly assessed the situation and recognizing that Kennett required Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), started chest compressions and performed CPR until the BCAS paramedics arrived.

“I was happy that I knew CPR.” said Antle. “It made me very thankful for all my years as a lifeguard. You really never know when you will need it.”

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.

“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 Bob Gallaher, BCAS Executive Director for the Interior Region. “I have no doubt that Matt’s efforts helped save this girl” added Gallaher.

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 Vital Link Award will be presented at Kennett’s high school, by one of the attending BCAS Paramedics, Mike Turner. The BCAS works closely with the ACT foundation in bringing CPR education to every high school student across Canada.

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