
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 29, 2008

BC Ambulance Service

SON SAVES FATHER'S LIFE THROUGH CPR

PORT COQUITLAM - The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) will be presenting Steve Giroux with a Vital Link Award to recognize the life saving actions he used to save his father's life. The presentation is on March 29, at the Port Coquitlam ambulance station.

On January 26, Patrick Giroux was helping his son Steve move house. Although he didn't feel well throughout the day, he continued to assist his son moving boxes and smaller items. When Patrick Giroux collapsed, Steve quickly recognized his father had stopped breathing and needed Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Thankfully, during his apprenticeship as a bricklayer Steve was trained in Occupational First Aid. Steve performed CPR until BCAS paramedics arrived on the scene.

"On behalf of the Province, I'd like to commend Steve for his quick thinking and the application of this life-saving skill," said George Abbott, Minister of Health. "This is a reminder to us all of the importance of CPR."

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 so thankful that I knew CPR," said Giroux. "The hardest part is thinking that you might have to perform CPR to someone you love. It would've been harder if I didn't have the skills to help him."

"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 BCAS Superintendent, Bill Penhallurick. "I have no doubt that Steve's efforts saved his fathers life."

With most out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occurring at home, early recognition of a cardiac emergency by a family member, early access to medical help (calling 911) and early bystander CPR are critical to positive patient outcomes.

The Vital Link Award will be presented to Steve at 11:00 am on March 29 at the Port Coquitlam Ambulance station, 122-2601 Lougheed Highway, Coquitlam, by BCAS Superintendent Bill Penhallurick and BCAS paramedic Stephen Shipman. Both Steve and his father Patrick will be in attendance.

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