
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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BC Ambulance Service

IRLY BIRD EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED AS HEROES

PRINCETON –The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) will be presenting two Vital Link Awards and one Good Samaritan Award to local heroes on April 3, to recognize their actions in saving an IRLY employees life.

“The Vital Link Award is presented by BC Ambulance Service to members of the public who are involved in saving a life through successful cardio-pulmonary resuscitation efforts,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “These individuals should be commended for their knowledge and quick actions in providing CPR which ultimately saved the life of Mr Whiting’s life.”

On January 10, Ernie Lawrence was working at his desk at the local Princeton Builders Mart and IRLY Building Centre, when he heard a strange noise. He turned around and saw fellow colleague, William Whiting on the floor, unconscious and not breathing. With no pulse present, Lawrence called for help and called 911. A customer, George Haws who was a ski patroller for 15 years, knew immediately he needed to perform CPR. Haws started chest compressions while instructing IRLY employee, Roy Rippon on keeping the airway clear and performing mouth to mouth. Lawrence maintained contact with the BCAS dispatcher on the phone until paramedics arrived.

“We know that even with the timely deployment of paramedics, the best chance for survival is through bystander CPR,” said Greg Dunn, BCAS Superintendent. “This is the first and most critical step in the chain of survival, and the actions of these individuals no doubt gave him the best chance of survival.”

BC Ambulance Service hopes that by promoting the examples where CPR has been successfully used to save a life, more people will be encouraged and motivated to learn this life saving skill.

The BCAS awards will be presented during a special ceremony at the IRLY Building Centre, on April 3 at 3:00pm, by BCAS Unit Chief Jo-Anne Ferguson and paramedics Moira Fynes and Rob Hurd; William Whiting and his family will be present.

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