
NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

FIVE HONOURED FOR SAVING CHILD'S LIFE

SICAMOUS – The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented five individuals with Vital Link Awards and Good Samaritan Awards for the life saving actions they performed last summer. Two Eagle River Secondary School students Tyler Watson and Jason Klassen were enjoying the summer weather at the Sicamous Public Beach with family and friends, when tragedy struck.

“My youngest son Travis was playing in the water pretending to hold his breath but at some point he never returned to the surface,” said Sherry Watson, Travis’s mom. “I’m so proud of Tyler and Jason for being so quick to recognize that Travis needed help.”

13 year old Tyler and his friend Jason Klassen, noticed that 11 year old Travis hadn’t returned to the surface. They both dived under the water and together they pulled him to the shore where Tyler initiated lifesaving Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Sherry and a bystander, Blanka Stepankova, ran to the boys and took over CPR until BCAS paramedics Kathy Crandlemire and Jodi Scott arrived.

Local “Citizen’s on Patrol” member, Coralie McKay, was a tremendous support to several children at the beach who were very upset over the incident. She stayed with the children and until they could be reunited with their families.

“The faster someone can initiate CPR the better chance a patient has of survival,” said Kathy Crandlemire, BCAS Unit Chief for the Sicamous Station. . “I have no doubt the CPR initiated prior to our arrival aided in the successful outcome for Travis.”

The BCAS Vital Link Award is presented to individuals who apply their CPR training during cardiac arrests. Good Samaritan Award is presented to individuals who have provided unselfish and humanitarian assistance during a medical emergency. These awards aim to recognise the selfless acts of individuals, and promote and raise awareness, of the important role members of the public can play during a medical emergency.

BCAS Unit Chief Kathy Crandlemire presented Vital Link awards to Tyler and Sherry Watson, and Blanka Stepankova; Good Samaritan Awards were given to Jason Klassen and Coralie MacKay. The awards were presented at Eagle River Secondary school in Sicamous, during a special assembly with attending paramedics Jodi Scott from Sicamous; and paramedics Jim Preston and Mike Johnson from the Salmon Arm Station.

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