
NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

GOOD SAMARITANS SAVE WOMAN'S LIFE

KELOWNA – The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented four individuals with Vital Link and Good Samaritan Awards to recognize their life saving actions in helping to save a colleague's life.

Sandra Nadeau's daily routine was predictable. Everyday around 11:00am, local office worker Karen McGinn would see Nadeau go outside to get the mail. On March 27, 2007 however, McGinn recalls seeing her at the mailbox and then suddenly saw her collapse.

"I was the only one in the office who can see out to the mailbox, so I'm just glad that I was there that day," said McGinn.

McGinn called 911 and yelled for help. Fellow colleagues, Andy DuTot, Evan Smailes and Chris Vanderburg ran outside to see if they could help. After realizing she was not breathing and did not have a pulse, Andy DuTot, a volunteer fire fighter, immediately began Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) with the help of Smailes and Vanderburg. The three colleagues performed life saving CPR to Nadeau until BCAS paramedics arrived.

"The quick thinking of Karen and her colleagues certainly helped save Sandra's life," said Health Services Minister George Abbott. "The heroic efforts of these four individuals deserves recognition and is admirable."

The BCAS Vital Link Award and BCAS Good Samaritan Award are presented to individuals who are involved in successful CPR efforts or who have provided unselfish and humanitarian assistance during a medical emergency. Aside from providing some much deserved recognition, these awards represents an important opportunity to further community awareness about the benefits of learning and using CPR and assisting in a medical emergency.

"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 Norm Matheson. "I have no doubt that this group of people's efforts helped save this woman's life."

The Vital Link Award was presented by the BCAS Superintendent Norm Matheson to the four heroes in Kelowna on July 11, with the patient, Sandra Nadeau present.

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