
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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BC Ambulance Service

STUDENTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR HEROISM

VICTORIA – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented a Vital Link Medal and Stork Award to two recent paramedic graduates from the Justice Institute of BC's who were put to the test, while still in their paramedic training program.

On February 23, 2008, Christopher Fraser, was working at the Royal Oak Golf Course, when a woman in the restaurant started choking on a piece of food, the staff yelled for Christopher who instantly recognized the signs of a choking victim; her hands were grasping at her throat and she was could not breathe or cough.

Christopher is currently taking the Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) course, a course which taught him only hours before the incident, the skills he needed to assist a choking victim. "I've never been more scared in my life but knew that she needed help," said Christopher. "I had just learnt that day in class what to do so I reached around her from behind and gave her three quick abdominal thrusts, she passed out at this point and I carefully lowered her to the ground and began chest compressions until the obstruction cleared itself and she was breathing on her own again."

On May 15, 2008 Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) student Adrienne Ewart was attending calls with a senior paramedic crew in order to gain the required practical experience to complete the PCP program. Paramedics are trained to deal with the unexpected, and that is just what Ewart had to do that day, when she arrived on the scene, a woman was about to give birth. With the help of the BCAS dispatcher and the paramedics on scene, Ewart, delivered a healthy baby boy.

"The quick thinking of Christopher and Adrienne made a difference," said Health Services Minister George Abbott. "Every day in British Columbia, our paramedics deal with the unexpected and provide exemplary care to thousands of British Columbians."

"All of these individuals should be very proud of their actions," said Grant Brilz Superintendent for the BC Ambulance Service. "Their assistance during these medical emergencies contributed to the positive patient outcomes, and they deserve to be recognized."

The BC Ambulance Service Community 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. The awards were presented at the Justice Institute in Victoria on Saturday July 26, by Superintendent Grant Brilz.

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