
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 20, 2008

BC Ambulance Service

CPR TRAINING SAVES A LIFE

PORT COQUITLAM – The BC Ambulance Service presented two local lifeguards with Vital Link awards to recognize their life-saving actions after witnessing a man collapse poolside.

“Investing the time and resources to learn basic First Aid and CPR skills can be the difference between life and death,” said Burquitlam MLA Harry Bloy. “Knowing how to respond to a medical emergency can help protect your loved ones and individuals in your community.”

“These coaches are trained in CPR and rescue techniques, which no doubt helped save this person’s life,” said BCAS Unit Chief Darrell Skelton. “We know that even with the best technology and timely deployment of paramedics, CPR performed by bystanders remains the patient’s best chance for survival.”

Last year, Brendan Robertson and Jen Wylie were coaching the Port Coquitlam (Poco) Marlins swim team when they heard a man cry out and saw him collapse next to the bleachers. They immediately recognized that Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation was necessary because the man was not breathing and did not have a pulse. The coaches performed CPR until BCAS paramedics arrived and administered cardiac medication and applied the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) to shock his heart back into a normal rhythm. The patient was sitting up and talking to the nurses when he arrived at the hospital.

“Adrenaline kicked in and the training just came back to us,” stated Brendan Robertson. “I was scared but I knew I had to do everything I could to save his life.”

The BCAS Vital Link Award is presented to individuals who are involved in CPR efforts. Aside from providing some much-deserved recognition, the award represents an important opportunity to further community awareness about the benefits of learning and using CPR.

Learn CPR. In the time it might take paramedics to arrive, your CPR skills could make a difference in someone’s life. For every minute that passes without help, a person’s chance of surviving a cardiac arrest drops by about 10 per cent. A cardiac arrest victim is FOUR times more likely to survive if they receive bystander CPR, however this basic procedure is not performed in approximately 85 per cent of all cardiac arrest cases.

Robertson and Wylie were recognized in front of their peers on Saturday at the Poco Marlins Swim Club annual awards banquet.

Contact: Sarah Taylor
Communications Officer
250-953-4310 or
250-213-7555