
NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

PARAMEDICS RECOGNIZE LIFESAVING CPR ACTIONS

KELOWNA – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) will present a local man with a Vital Link Award to recognize his actions in saving his colleague’s life.

“We know that even with the best technology and timely deployment of paramedics, the quick assistance by a bystander to call 911 and perform CPR still provides a patient with the best chance of survival,” said BCAS Okanagan North Superintendent Norm Bickel. “The lifesaving actions of Dennis Roberts played a key role in a positive patient outcome in this case.”

On April 8, 2008, Roberts and co-worker Robert Letourneau were working at Pacific Wholesale Appliances on Mills Road when a customer notified Roberts that Letourneau collapsed. When Roberts reached him, he found that Letourneau was unresponsive and had no pulse. Roberts drew on his seven years of experience as a caregiver and immediately began cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) which he continued until the BCAS paramedics arrived.

“I’ve never had to perform CPR in the past,” said Roberts. “It came back to me very quickly and with the help of the BCAS dispatcher who provided additional CPR instructions, I was confident Bob would be okay.”

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Canada and accounts for more than one fifth of all deaths in B.C. A cardiac arrest victim is four times more likely to survive if CPR is administered while waiting for further medical care. Bystanders provide CPR in approximately eight per cent of cardiac arrest cases attended by BCAS paramedics.

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

The Vital Link Award will be presented to Roberts at the Kelowna ambulance station on Mills Road, on Friday Jan. 16, 2009 at 9:00am, by BCAS District Supervisor Rick Wild and attending paramedics David Waters and Maureen Rand. Letourneau and his wife will also be in attendance.

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