

Life Saving Award

Peter Cappadocia and Jason Reinblatt (Laurentian Zone)



On the morning of the 28th of December, 2009, after helping Peter Cappadocia with an injured skier, Jean Bessette, an assistant patrol leader in Laurentian Zone, went by snow mobile to wait for an ambulance in the employee parking lot. An employee coming in to work for the day waved at Jean and parked his car. When he got out of his car, he glanced over at the snow mobile and saw that Jean was no longer sitting on it. He found it strange and approached the snow mobile where he found Jean lying on the ground in

obvious respiratory distress. He ran to the nearby garage to call for help. Peter Cappadocia was closest and with his patient stable, he ran to where Jean was lying. Peter found that Jean had no pulse and was not breathing. Peter immediately called for help, asking for a defibrillator, as well as oxygen and began CPR.

Jason Reinblatt, a patroller since 1992, ran to the scene to assist Peter after hearing the radio call. Upon arriving, Jason began compressions while Peter continued ventilations. Before the resort AED arrived on the scene, the ambulance arrived, and the paramedics intervened with their defibrillator. The paramedics administered 3 shocks before resuscitating Jean. Once stabilized, they transported Jean to Hotel Dieu de St-Jerome. Jason accompanied them in case they had any complications en route. Jean's pulse again while still about 10 minutes from the hospital. They administered another shock on the side of the highway to no avail and CPR was restarted for the remaining distance to the hospital. Once in the hospital, the doctors were able to resuscitate and stabilize Jean once again. He was transferred to Sacre Coeur to install a coronary stent. Jean was back in St-Jerome and resting by 9:30 pm on the same day.

Despite the incredible luck that an ambulance was already en route to the ski hill when Jean collapsed the quick interventions by Peter Cappadocia and Jason Reinblatt kept Jean alive while the ambulance was in transit, and Jason's continued interventions in the ambulance allowed the doctors the opportunity to resuscitate Jean once in the hospital. Immediate and skilled treatment on the part of these patrollers allowed them to save the life of their colleague Jean, that day.

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Fraser Stewart (Southern Alberta Zone)



Stephen Soroka was working at the construction site of their ski hill residence when he felt ill. He told his wife that he needed something to eat and was headed back to the place they were renting. His wife Vera did not like the way he acted or looked when he left and felt she better go check on him. She found Stephen incoherent on the couch and immediately called 911. The 911 operator noted that the ambulance would take 30-45 minutes to arrive due to bad roads at the time so the service called the hill and Fraser Stewart was dispatched to the scene.

Based on what was related over the phone, Fraser took the Oxygen pack from the infirmary on his way to the place where the family were staying. Upon arrival at the residence, Fraser immediately began BLS procedures including the application of oxygen. Mr. Soroka was revived to a dozy state from unresponsive. Fraser continued to coach the patient's breathing while waiting for the ambulance.

The ambulance took 40 minutes to arrive due to the road conditions. The EMT on the ambulance stated Mr. Soroka had suffered an ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI), or a heart attack in layman's terms. The EMT's continued care and rushed the patient to Pincher Creek Hospital where they treated him with clot busting drugs. The patient was then rushed by ground ambulance 2 hours north to Calgary as the STARS rescue helicopter could not be used due, once again, to the bad weather. Upon arrival at Foothills Hospital, the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit completed an angiogram which showed an 80% blockage of a vital artery which was ultimately repaired surgically. Mr. Soroka went home just 4 days later.

The doctors at the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit stated that early intervention with oxygen was an essential tool in the survival of this patient and credit Fraser's quick thinking and expert skills.

Life Saving Award Gerry Kryworuchka (Parkland Zone)

On Friday 18 March 2011, Gerald Kryworuchka was skiing down towards the day lodge. When he looked up at a convergence of his trail with another, he saw an elderly gentleman lying motionless on the snow just above the intersection of these two runs. Gerry kicked off his skis and walked uphill to check on the gentleman.

When he found the patient to be unconscious and unresponsive, Gerry immediately called for an ambulance and help from his fellow Patrollers. While further assessing his patient, he found that he was without pulse or respirations. Gerry started CPR, and after the third cycle found that the patient's pulse and respirations had returned. At that same time, additional patrollers arrived on scene with the first aid equipment that had been requested. They quickly collared and placed the patient on a backboard and transported him immediately to the Patrol room. The ambulance arrived while they were completing further assessments in the Patrol room and the patient was loaded into the ambulance and transported to the local hospital in Russell, Manitoba. The patient was stabilized further and subsequently transferred to a hospital in Winnipeg where his status continued to improve.

Anna Chipelski, RN/BN was one of the nurses on duty at the Russell hospital where this patient was initially transported and she reported " I can say with confidence that the initial quick thinking of Gerry Kryworuchka and lack of any hesitation in starting CPR is in direct correlation with the patient's positive outcome. Without these quick actions the patients' injuries would have been worse with mortality as a possible result."

Training and quick thinking in circumstances like the one that Gerry found himself in, do matter. They can save a life which is what happened on that day.

Life Saving Award Jenna Espersen (Ogopogo Zone)



Jenna Espersen, with her new knowledge and training in first aid volunteered as a member of the first aid department at her place of work after joining CSPS Ogopogo zone in the fall of 2009. Less than a year after first certifying her first aid with Ogopogo Zone of the Canadian Ski Patrol System Jenna Espersen saved a life.

On Wednesday, September 15, 2010 the driver of a tow truck had a seizure and crashed in to a number of cars and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) building in Kelowna. A witness called 911 and stayed with the driver of the tow truck. While the patient's condition deteriorated an employee went inside to

find a first aid attendant and the first one they saw was Jenna. She immediately enlisted the aid of another first aider, they secured the medical kit and oxygen and responded to the scene.

When they arrived, they knew instantly by the patient's colour that he was not breathing and they needed to act quickly. Another ICBC first aid attendant had arrived and now had the tow truck driver on the ground. Together all three first aid attendants started working on the patient performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, chest compressions and administering oxygen while BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) paramedics were enroute. The Paramedics continued the care while transporting the patient to Kelowna General Hospital.

BCAS Superintendent for Okanagan South Norm Matheson stated "Without the quick recognition and response by these individuals, the patient may not be alive today."

The driver of the tow truck, Loren, recovered and returned to his family life. Loren's family sent a card to express their thanks for the efforts that helped to save his life. Loren has many roles in his family as a son, brother, uncle, father and husband. Thanks in part to the efforts of Jenna Espersen and her training with the CSPS those roles do not sit empty and Loren's life continues today.

Life Saving Award Roy Sandland (Terra Nova Zone) and Dirk Muir (Humber Dorset Zone)



Last spring, members of the Canadian Ski Patrol were enjoying a wonderful spring day at Marble Mountain, on the west coast of Newfoundland. In what has become an annual visit, two patrollers were visiting from White Hills Ski area, which is located near Clarenville, on the east coast of the Province.

Roy Sandland (pictured), visiting from White Hills Ski Area and Ray Dunphy, a Marble Mountain patroller and Zone President of the local Zone headed down a black diamond run called Corkscrew on their way to cross over a new run called the Jigger. Ray went to the right of the run while Roy followed about 100 feet behind, and being unfamiliar with the new run, went around another way. He quickly noticed Ray's body coming to rest as he turned the corner. Roy expected Ray to get up or at least move. He didn't. Roy put in a radio call for a toboggan, assistance and spinal kit. Roy held c-spine on the patient, did a quick assessment, and found the patient to respond to pain stimuli. A nurse and her

partner stopped to offer some help. Primary and secondary assessments were completed. They all noted that their patient was quickly deteriorating.

Dirk Muir was heading back up the Black Moriah Lift heard the call from Roy and proceeded down Corkscrew with the rescue toboggan.

Once Dirk arrived at the scene, he handed over the spinal kit and unpacked the toboggan. Another patroller, Stephanie Camp arrived shortly afterwards and the five people on the scene log-rolled the patient onto the backboard. Roy inserted an OPA to aid with the patient's breathing, which was noisy, complicated with nasal and oral bleeding. Two other patrollers, Niki Hollohan and Jennifer Camp arrived at the scene and took over from the nurse and her husband. A cervical collar was applied and the tie down was completed. Once packaged for transport, Ray Dunphy (the patient) was carried down the hill, a short distance, to a waiting ambulance.

Once transported to the hospital, Ray remained in critical condition and unconscious for several weeks. When

his condition was stabilized weeks later, it was determined that he had suffered a stroke, either prior to or during the fall. In total, Ray spent nearly six months in hospital altogether, slowly recovering from his injuries. The initial shock of seeing who the injured person was didn't change the patroller's responses and this crew worked together with everyone knowing and performing their jobs. The result of these considerable efforts is that Ray Dunphy could ski a few runs with them and assist with training this past fall and winter although he did not actively patrol.