

## Life Saving Awards

The Priory of Canada recognizes the courageous and prompt actions of individuals in saving the lives of their fellow citizens by presenting meritorious Life Saving Certificates.

### To Receive a Gold Life Saving Award (Risk of Life)

Mr. Ian Joseph Wheeler

Mr. Stephen Robert LeMessurier

On March 12, 2009, off the coast of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Ian Wheeler, Mr. Stephen LeMessurier and the crew of two Cougar Helicopter Flight Teams responded to an emergency call that Cougar Flight 491 had crashed in the North Atlantic. Flight 491 had been ferrying 16 workers to oil platforms off the Grand Banks when the crew reported problems. Arriving at the scene, the crew saw debris from the wreckage, two empty life rafts and one survivor. Without hesitation and without thought for his own safety Mr. Wheeler was quickly lowered down on a hoist cable into the rough water. Securing the survivor to a lifeline, Mr. Wheeler sent the man up in his own rescue sling to Mr. Robert LeMessurier, who was waiting in the helicopter. Putting his own life at risk, Mr. Wheeler remained in the water, untethered, in 2-3 three meter waves, waiting to be picked up. Once the casualty was on board, Mr. LeMessurier initiated first aid to treat the casualty for hypothermia. Mr. Wheeler was then hoisted back into the chopper and teamed with Mr. LeMessurier to administer Oxygen Emergency First Aid for hypothermia.

Shortly after, a second casualty was spotted in the water below. While Mr. Wheeler continued to provide first aid to the casualty on board the helicopter, Mr.

LeMessurier was lowered down on a cable. Without hesitation or thought for his own safety, Mr. LeMessurier secured himself to the casualty and he and the casualty were hoisted into the helicopter. Regretfully, despite his best efforts this casualty did not survive. Mr. Ian Wheeler, Commander in the Order of St. John, and Mr. Stephen LeMessurier are to be commended for their courageous actions, team work and for their knowledge and use of first aid in saving and attempting to save the lives of casualties from Cougar Flight 491.

**Ms. Marlene Coffey**

**Mr. Stephen Harrie**

**Mr. Ian Pearcey**

**Mr. Corey Ronayne**

Who, on September 27, 2007, on Bay of Islands, off the West Coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, teamed with others and used their first aid skills to save lives. During a mock training exercise designed to evacuate passengers from a ferry after an onboard explosion, volunteer members from the Canadian Coast Guard ship Sir Wilfred Grenfell, Ian Pearcey, Marlene Coffey, Stephen Harrie and Corey Ronayne realized that several of the other volunteer participants were actually becoming seriously ill. Exhaust fumes were seeping into the covered lifeboat that was being used in the exercise to evacuate them. Without thought for their own

safety, these four individuals worked together to provide emergency first aid for asphyxiation by administering oxygen to 21 casualties. They arranged for those severely affected to be air-lifted by rescue helicopter and continued to provide on going care to the rest of the casualties until they could all be evacuated by high speed craft to shore for treatment. Ian Pearcey, Corey Ronayne, Stephen Harrie and Marlene Coffey are to be commended for their selfless actions, and for their knowledge and use of first aid in saving lives.

**To Receive a Silver Life-Saving Award**

**Mr. Larry Breen**

**Mr. Matthew Cardoulis**

**Ms. Jessica Freake**

Who, on June 23, 2008, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, teamed with others and used their first aid skills to save a life. Mr. Larry Breen was watching a ball game in a local park when suddenly he saw his father collapse on the field. Calling for help, Mr. Breen raced to his father's aid. Matthew Cardoulis and Jessica Freake were alerted by the call and went to assist. Ms. Freake and Mr. Cardoulis quickly assessed the unconscious casualty. They found him to be not breathing and without pulse. Immediately, they began CPR. Working as a team, Ms. Freake, Mr. Cardoulis and Mr. Breen continued CPR until emergency services arrived. Without this life saving intervention, the casualty may not have survived. Ms. Jessica Freake,

Mr. Matthew Cardoulis and Mr. Larry Breen are to be commended for their quick response, team work and for their knowledge and use of first aid in saving a life.

**RNC Constable Danny Doiron**

**RNC Constable Brian Marshall**

Who, on June 14, 2007, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, teamed together and used their first aid skills to save a life. Danny Doiron and Brian Marshall were playing hockey with friends at a local arena when suddenly one of their team mates collapsed on the bench. Immediately calling 911, they went to his aid. The unconscious casualty was not breathing and without pulse. Working together, the two men laid the casualty on the floor and began CPR. They continued this life-saving intervention until emergency services arrived. RNC Constables Danny Doiron and Brian Marshall are to be commended for their quick actions and team work in saving a life.

**Correctional Officer Shane Elliott**

**Correctional Officer Gary King**

**Correctional Officer Paul Parsons**

Who, on February 9, 2009, in Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador, worked as a team and intervened to save a life. Correctional Officer Shane Elliott was at his place of work when he became aware that a man had collapsed in the fitness room. Correctional Officer Elliott immediately went to assist. He was joined by

Correctional Officers Gary King and Paul Parsons at the scene. They assessed the casualty and found him to be unconscious, not breathing and without pulse.

Working together, the three men initiated CPR, with Officers Elliott and Parsons providing chest compressions, while Officer King administered respirations. They continued this life-saving intervention until emergency services arrived.

Correctional Officers Shane Elliott, Paul Parsons and Gary King are to be commended for their quick actions in saving a life.

#### **Mr. Robert LeGrow**

On December 6, 2008, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Robert LeGrow was having dinner with friends when suddenly one of the men at the table began to choke. The casualty was unable to cough or speak and was turning blue. Realizing that the man was in distress and having difficulty breathing, Mr. LeGrow immediately went to his aid. He administered one strong abdominal thrust and the object was expelled. The casualty began to breathe again. In using this life saving action Mr. Robert LeGrow undoubtedly saved the man's life and is to be commended for his knowledge and use of first aid.

#### **Mr. Paul Norman**

On September 11, 2008, in Antigua, Guatemala, Mr. Paul Norman used his first aid skills and saved a life. Mr. Norman was part of a group of people from Newfoundland and Labrador on a mission in Guatemala helping to build housing. They were having dinner in a local restaurant when one of his colleagues began to

choke on some food. The man was unable to speak or cough and was having difficulty breathing. Mr. Norman immediately went to his aid and administered several abdominal thrusts. He continued until the object was expelled from the casualty's airway and the casualty was able to breathe again on his own. Without this life saving intervention, the casualty may not have survived. Mr. Paul Norman is to be commended for his knowledge and use of first aid in saving a life.

**Mr. Keith Thorne**

Who, on November 20, 2008, in Wooddale, Newfoundland and Labrador, used his first aid skills to save a life. Mr. Keith Thorne was attending a lunch time reception when he realized that one of the dinner guests was choking on some food. The woman was unable to speak or cough and was having difficulty breathing. Mr. Thorne immediately went to her aid administering several abdominal thrusts. He continued until the object was dislodged from the casualty's airway and the woman was able to breathe again on her own. Without the quick actions of Mr. Thorne, the casualty may not have survived. Mr. Keith Thorne is to be commended for his quick actions and first aid response.

**Ms. Tracy Westcott**

Who, on December 16, 2008, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, used her first aid skills to save a life. Ms. Tracy Westcott, a teacher at a local elementary school, was on lunch duty in the grade 2 area when she realized that one of the students was choking. He was unable to speak or breathe. Ms. Westcott immediately

went to his aid. She administered several abdominal thrusts and successfully dislodged the object from the boy's airway. Without this life-saving intervention, the boy may not have survived. Ms. Tracy Westcott is to be commended for her quick actions and for her knowledge and use of first aid in saving a life.

**Ms. Sandra Manning (Ms. Heather O'Keefe Accepting)**

**Ms. Linda Moulton**

**Ms. Alicia Rowe**

On March 18 of this year in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, these three women teamed together and used their first aid skills to save a life. Retired nurses Sandra Manning, Linda Moulton and Alicia Rowe were at a local curling rink when they witnessed a man suddenly collapse on the ice. They immediately went to his assistance. The casualty was unconscious, not breathing and without pulse. Working together, the three women began CPR and continued until emergency services arrived. Without their quick actions and use of CPR, the casualty would not have survived. Sandra Manning, Linda Moulton and Alicia Rowe are to be commended for their knowledge and use of this life saving intervention.

**Captain Derek LeRiche**

**Accepting on behalf of the**

**Crew of the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Leonard J Cowley**

On February 22, 2009, while patrolling the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and Labrador, the crew of the CCGS Leonard J Cowley teamed together and used their first aid skills to save lives. Alerted by a distress call from a nearby fishing vessel,

**the Cowley immediately proceeded to their aid. The entire crew of the F/ V Monte Galineiro was forced to abandon ship when an explosion occurred in the engine room. Fire broke out and the vessel rapidly took on water. Some crew members were able to don survival suits before entering the water, but some could not. At sea temperatures in the North Atlantic are extremely cold and the danger of all succumbing to hypothermia and drowning, if not rescued quickly, was real. The Cowley dispatched 2 rescue boats and successfully retrieved 22 people from the sea. On board, all casualties were treated for hypothermia and advanced first aid was provided to those more seriously injured. The members of the crew of the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Leonard J Cowley are to be commended for their rapid response and team work.**