

MEDIA KIT

2009 Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Community Awards



2009 Local Hero Award

Sponsored by: St. John Ambulance

Background information

This is the first year this award has been presented at the Annual Community Awards.

This award is in recognition of an individual who within the last year has saved a life, b) extended a life through immediate actions like first aid, or went above and beyond basic safety requirements at work to ensure a safe environment. Nomination requirements are as follows:

- A resident of the Comox Valley
- Can be someone in a paid position provided that medical first response is not the paid position or primary occupation
- The 2009 award time frame will extend beyond the 1 year time frame as it is the first award

The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce and St. John Ambulance are pleased to present the 2009 award this year to two recipients this year –

**Steve Butcher &
Constable Don Sinclair** (*attached*)

Background

Steve Butcher

Steve Butcher is a resident of the Comox Valley and works as an OHS Officer at Canada Safeway in Courtenay. On the morning of July 1, 2008 a gentleman collapsed on the floor of Safeway while doing his shopping. The Assistant Manager quickly directed a co-worker to phone 9-1-1. Within seconds, Steve Butcher, the stores Health and Safety Officer was on scene. He immediately checked the gentlemen's pulse. It was present, but weak, so he began to check him over for other problems. Steve felt the man's pulse slip away and realized his heart had stopped beating. Steve started CPR right away and before he could complete the first round the gentleman's heart fired up again. Steve was hooking up the oxygen tank when the gentleman's pulse slipped away a second time. Another round of CPR restarted his heart and Steve connected the oxygen. Soon after, the ambulance arrived. BC Ambulance Service Regional Superintendent, Mike Aubie, said that bystander participation during medical emergencies is a vital link in the chain of survival. Without the quick and appropriate response from Steve, the gentleman would have spent a minutes without a heartbeat, which would have caused brain damage or other complications. Steve's actions meant paramedics didn't have to resuscitate the patient and could transport him to the hospital immediately. Steve Butcher states his reward has been the gentleman is alive and well, and that is all the reward he needs.

Contact: Steve Butcher
Canada Safeway
250-334-9284

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Local Hero Award – continued

Constable Don Sinclair

On April 16, 2009 at 5:28 pm Constable Don Sinclair responded to assist with a female who had driven her vehicle into the Ocean at Point Holmes in Comox. At the time Constable Sinclair was following up on another matter in the area, realizing he was likely the closest to the event and even though he was busy on another matter and had thirty minutes left on his shift he immediately responded. Once on scene, Constable Sinclair made an assessment and quickly came up with a plan to rescue the female. The vehicle was in five feet of water with waves crashing around it. Constable Sinclair put himself at risk when he entered the water with an axe, broke out the back window, climbed into the back of the submerging vehicle and pulled the female occupant to safety. This was a demonstration of the courage and compassion that Constable Sinclair brings to work each and every day.

Contact: Don Sinclair
RCMP
250-338-1321