

Going above and beyond

Community Safety Award of Valour

Going above and beyond the call of duty. It's in the playbook of every first responder, and even members of the public. And it all came together in a team effort rescue on Sept. 7, 2014 for this year's winners of the Community Safety Award of Valour.

That's when civilian Mike Smith, who was riding his bike along River Road, was flagged down and told a car had gone into the river. Smith wasted no time and dove into the water, and removed an unconscious man, who was not breathing, from the overturned vehicle.

Smith managed to revive the man by giving him mouth to mouth resuscitation for several minutes.

Richmond Fire Rescue members arrived shortly afterwards, followed by New Westminster Police Department Const. Sean Hackman and the Richmond RCMP.

Hackman heard a child was possibly inside the vehicle, so he put on a life jacket and entered the water attempting to search the submerged car for more occupants.

A second unresponsive



Members of the RCMP, New Westminster Police Department and civilian Mike Smith (third from left) played roles in the rescue of passengers from a car overturned in the Fraser River last September. Photo by Kevin Hill/Special to the News

man was removed and taken to shore by Richmond Fire Rescue where CPR was started.

RCMP constables Hackman and Alex Arias, as well as Richmond Fire Rescue members, all made additional trips into the vehicle to ensure there were no other patients.

Meanwhile, constables Sean Tutt and Prince Opoku cleared the area of civilians and performed defibrillation on the second man.

Both occupants were transported to Royal Columbian Hospital where the first male, who Mike Smith had revived, remained unconscious.

Unfortunately, the second man was pronounced deceased.

Two days later, police received the report that the first man was recovering well, without significant injuries.

The work of all involved mitigated the impact of this tragic accident.

Flash mob rocks safety message

Integrated Community Safety Award

Want to get the public to take notice of an important initiative about pedestrian safety?

How about closing down one of Richmond's busiest intersections for a short time and fill it full of dancing cops, firefighters, ambulance paramedics and city workers?

That's exactly what happened on the morning of Oct. 30 as the intersection of No. 3 Road and Saba Road was shut down for a flash mob performance — rocking to the Bee Gees disco hit *Staying Alive* — that went viral with its message called SLOW (Stop, Look, Observe, Walk) and earned this year's Integrated Safety Award.

Richmond RCMP Cpl. Kevin Krygier spearheaded the creation of a viral flash mob video, and Sgt. Stephanie Ashton enlisted the help and support of Joanne Bergman from ICBC, who was able to assist with providing funding and resources to make the video a reality.

Rishell O'Brien, owner of the Defy Gravity Dance, embraced the concept and provided countless hours to the choreography of the



Joey Kwan (above far left) from Aberdeen Centre presented the award for Integrated Safety to (from left) videographer Jesse Aquing, Defy Gravity Dance studio owner Rishell O'Brien, and ICBC's Joanne Bergman for a flash mob dance for a pedestrian safety campaign (below). Photo above by Kevin Hill/Special to the News



dance routine which included a number of her students who kicked off the number.

Jesse Aquing was also enlisted to film and edit his footage into a seamless video. Thanks, to their efforts, the

event was a success, achieving its objective of increasing public awareness to the dangers facing pedestrians and provided information to help citizens cross the street safely.