



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

# Investiture *citations*

## Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

RESCUE COMMENDATION AWARD CITATION

OCTOBER 12, 2018 | GOVERNMENT HOUSE | EDMONTON, AB

# Alexander Thompson

WIZARD LAKE, LEDUC COUNTY, ALBERTA – JUNE 7, 2017

**THE RESCUE COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE** *recognizes an outstanding rescue by a person who is not a Lifesaving Society award holder.*

On June 7, 2017, Ken Sagert was launching his small aluminum powerboat at the boat launch at Wizard Lake. Ken is a diabetic and an amputee, having lost both of his hands due to frostbite several years ago. While at the boat launch a person placed the drain plug into his boat but it was later found that it was the wrong one or was not properly inserted. Not knowing, Ken launched his boat and proceeded onto the lake. He had a lifejacket in the boat but was not wearing it. Once on the lake the drain plug came out and the boat started to take on water. Ken was unable to stem the flow of water so he got out of the boat and into the water without his lifejacket. The boat capsized suddenly, approximately 10-15 metres outside the bordered swimming area. Ken was momentarily trapped under the boat but managed to get out from under it. He tried to stay afloat but without his lifejacket and his medical condition, he struggled.

Alex Thompson was on the beach with his wife and children, when he noticed the boat just offshore from the swimming area and thought that the occupant was having engine trouble. A couple of minutes later he heard an onlooker state that the boat was capsizing. He immediately swam out to the man. A woman in her kayak, Shauna Recknagle, was also trying to rescue Ken. When Alex arrived on scene he held onto Ken's torso, keeping him above water. Shauna and Alex both began to move Ken back to shore. Shauna told Ken to hug the boat while floating on his back and her and Alex would both kick. As they went along Ken kept slipping off so Shauna changed her position from the side of the kayak to the back of the kayak where she kept one hand under his shoulder to help him hang on. After Shauna and Alex got Ken into shallow water they helped him to shore. Shauna and Alex waited with Ken until the Leduc County park officer, Pam Billey, arrived, who then took him into her care.

Meanwhile, a number of other individuals assisted in pulling his boat to shore. Once there they flipped the boat over and Alex noted that the plug underneath the boat motor was not inserted so re-inserted it. They secured the boat for later retrieval.

For his quick response and outstanding effort, **Alexander Thompson** is awarded the Rescue Commendation Certificate.