



**Lifesaving Society
Rescue Award Nomination Form**



“Whomsoever you see in distress, recognize in him a fellow man.”
Lifesaving Society motto

Our roots trace back to the 19th century in England, where we began as The Swimmers’ Life Saving Society. The first award created by the Society, the Bronze Medallion, was awarded in 1896. In 1904 under the patronage of King Edward VII, we became the Royal Life Saving Society. Today, we are known to Canadians as the Lifesaving Society, Canada’s lifeguarding experts. As a national, volunteer-based charitable organization we work to prevent drowning and water-related injury through our training programs, Water Smart[®] public education and aquatic safety management services.

The Lifesaving Society has a proud history of awarding individuals who perform significant acts of bravery and merit with one of our Commonwealth, National or Branch rescue awards. Our rescue awards and ceremonies pay tribute to Albertans who have shown remarkable courage and perseverance in the rescue of others often in extraordinary circumstances. These people have either performed a water rescue and/or voluntarily used their Lifesaving Society first aid training to assist someone in distress.

Alberta & Northwest Territories Branch Rescue Awards:

The Lifesaving Medal may be awarded to a person involved in a rescue or attempted rescue that took place in Alberta or the Northwest Territories. It may also be awarded to a resident of Alberta or the Northwest Territories involved in a rescue that took place elsewhere. A **Bar for Bravery** may be awarded if the nature of the rescue placed the rescuer’s life in considerable danger. The **Bar for Merit** may be awarded if the nature of the rescue placed the rescuer’s life in some danger but the rescuer must have demonstrated presence of mind and/or skill of a meritorious nature.

The Commendation Citation may be awarded to a person who is deserving of recognition for a humanitarian act.

Note: Rescue personnel who perform in the course of their duty may be eligible for Branch Rescue Awards.

National Rescue Awards:

The M.G. Griffiths Plaque is the highest Bravery award presented by the Lifesaving Society Canada. Recipients must have demonstrated exceptional skill, personal risks, and a high degree of bravery and courage. Recipients of the M.G. Griffiths Plaque must be a Lifesaving Society award holder.

The M.G. Griffiths Certificate is the second highest national bravery award of the Lifesaving Society. It is presented to a Lifesaving Society award holder who while using approved techniques demonstrates significant personal bravery in an outstanding rescue attempt.

The Rescue Commendation Certificate recognizes an outstanding rescue by a person who is not a Lifesaving Society award holder.

Note: Rescue personnel who perform in the course of their duty are not eligible for National Rescue Awards.

The Commonwealth Rescue Awards:

The highest individual Rescue Award is the **Mountbatten Medal** which is awarded annually, if warranted, for the most outstanding rescue in the Commonwealth. The medal is awarded annually except in a year when no rescue of sufficient merit has been put forward. The candidate must be an award holder of the Society.

The Russell Medal is given to a person 18 years of age or younger who, during the previous calendar year, carried out the most outstanding resuscitation or attempted resuscitation of a person. It was also suggested that anyone nominated for the award would be a member of either the Royal Life Saving Society or one of its affiliated clubs/organizations anywhere in the Commonwealth.

The HRH Prince Michael of Kent Certificate of Merit is given for outstanding acts of bravery in an aquatic environment by an individual(s) not eligible for the Mountbatten Medal or Russell Medal.

The Ireland Medal is awarded annually to an Irish citizen or person of Irish descent for the most outstanding aquatic rescue or rescue attempt anywhere in the world within the preceding two calendar years.

Note: Rescue personnel who perform in the course of their duty are not eligible for Commonwealth Rescue Awards.

Award Recognition Process:

Every member of the Society and the public is encouraged to submit nominations to the Lifesaving Society office at any time. Recipient categories include:

- Ordinary people who may or may not have Lifesaving Society awards.
- Lifesaving Society award holders who participate in a rescue.
- Off-duty rescue personnel who perform a rescue.
- On-duty lifeguards and rescue personnel whose actions are considered to be “above and beyond the call of duty”.

Generally the following process is followed:

1. Complete the form included, plus send a description describing the actions that took place along with any newspaper clippings or articles to the Lifesaving Society by mail, fax or email.
2. A designated staff member will review the recommendation to ensure it is reasonably complete. The nominator may be contacted for more information at this stage.
3. Particulars of the recommendation are validated. For bravery awards this will include review of reports from Police, Fire Department, Medical services as necessary.
4. We make a determination of the level of award to be awarded. Documentation is submitted for approval by the appropriate authorities at Branch, National or Commonwealth levels.
5. If approved we contact the recipient by phone and inform them. Their name is then added to the invitations list.
6. When given permission, we also contact local media, and the MLA in the recipients constituency to advise them of their local hero.
7. Rescue awards are presented at our annual Investiture of Lifesaving Honours, or Annual General Meeting/Branch Event. In special circumstances, presentations can be made within the recipient’s community.



LIFESAVING SOCIETY
The Lifeguarding Experts

Recommendation for Rescue Award

Date of Rescue: _____

Location of Incident: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Submitted By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contact Information – Rescuer 1

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contact Information – Rescuer 2

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please use the second page to describe the rescue >>>

Description of Rescue:

(Please provide copies of any supporting documents that you have, i.e. newspaper clippings, reports, witness or rescuer statement, etc.)

Submit to:

Lifesaving Society, 13123-156 Street, Edmonton, AB T5V 1V2

Phone: 780-415-1755 | Fax: 780-427-9334

experts@lifesaving.org | www.lifesaving.org