



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

The Lifeguarding Experts

Investiture *citations*

Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

LIFESAVING MEDAL CITATION & RESCUE COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE

OCTOBER 25, 2019 | GOVERNMENT HOUSE | EDMONTON, AB

Rebecka Blackburn

Sommer King

North Saskatchewan River, Devon, AB – June 20, 2018

THE BRANCH LIFESAVING MEDAL, BAR FOR MERIT is a branch Rescue Award issued by the Lifesaving Society Alberta & Northwest Territories that may be awarded to a person involved in a rescue or attempted rescue of person at risk. Recipients have demonstrated presence of mind and skill of a meritorious nature. Recipients are awarded a **Bar for Merit** when the nature of the rescue placed the rescuer's life in some danger. Rescue personnel who performed a rescue in the course of duty are eligible for this award.

THE BRANCH COMMENDATION CITATION is a branch Rescue Award issued by the Lifesaving Society Alberta & Northwest Territories that may be awarded to a person who is deserving of recognition for a humanitarian act.

On July 20th, 2018, eighteen-year-old Rebecka Blackburn had just finished her evening teaching swimming lessons at the Devon pool and decided to join her mother and Sommer King by the shore of the North Saskatchewan River near Devon. They looked out towards the river and they noticed a man in his late twenties "awkwardly" splashing. Rebecka noticed the man's friends were sitting next to them laughing at his "funny" swimming techniques, thinking he was joking. Rebecka asked her mother if she thought he was okay, but she wasn't sure. Soon after the man in the river started waving his hands and he started yelling "Help!"

Immediately Rebecka, Sommer and one of the man's friends jumped into the river to rescue him. Rebecka swam seventy-five meters diagonally across the river to get to the man in distress. Rebecka approached him swimming head-up front crawl, keeping an eye on him the entire time. She could see him bobbing up and down. As she approached closer, the victim submerged under the water. She quickly did a surface dive to retrieve him and performed a hip carry to support the man while carrying him towards the shore. Sommer swam close alongside Rebecka while shouting to the man "lie on your back," and "try and relax." Sommer kept an eye on the man's friend to make sure he didn't submerge in the water. As Sommer and Rebecka both swam closer to shore, Rebecka told Sommer to stay close as they were both getting tired.

Despite being exhausted from the weight of the man and the strong current, Rebecka managed to bring the man onto the shore with Sommers' assistance. Afterwards, they suggested to the individual they just rescued that he should seek medical attention.

For her quick response and outstanding effort, **Rebecka Blackburn** is awarded the Branch Lifesaving Medal with a Bar for Merit.

For her quick response and outstanding effort, **Sommer King** is awarded the Branch Commendation Citation.