



Lifeline

Aquatic News for British Columbia & the Yukon

Head Lifeguard Course

The Head Lifeguard course is designed as entry level training for front line supervision of deck staff including staff training and supervision as well as safe facility operation and risk management components. The Head Lifeguard certification requires completion of the Head Lifeguard course where the candidate will learn about the skills and knowledge required to oversee a safe aquatic facility.

Did you know?



The *Barnsley Challenge Shield* was presented to the British Columbia Branch of the Royal Life Saving Society in the spring of 1936 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the City of Vancouver.

It was donated by George Barnsley & Sons of England for the winner of the annual competition of lifesaving. It is now presented to the winners of the *Barnsley Lifeguard Championship* held each year in the Branch.

This year Canada Games Pool in Kamloops is hosting the competition on August 21 and 22. For more information on lifeguard competition or Lifesaving Sport please contact the Branch.

Drowning Prevention Week



The BC & Yukon Branch is pleased to announce *National Drowning Prevention Week* Sunday, July 19 to

Saturday, July 25. The Lifesaving Society, together with Affiliates from right across Canada, will strive to raise public awareness of how to be *WaterSmart* with the ultimate goal of reducing the number of preventable water-related injuries and fatalities. It also aims to promote awareness of the Society's public advocacy role, to reinforce the identity of the Lifesaving Society as experts in the field of drowning prevention, and to promote the Society's objectives.

To assist affiliates with planning a *Drowning Prevention Week* event we have produced a *Drowning Prevention Week Guide* that is available free of charge from our website. The guide is full of activities and event ideas for facilities to use during their own *Drowning Prevention Week* event.

We hope that every community will celebrate *National Drowning Prevention Week* by increasing water awareness in your community, making it a safer place to enjoy aquatic recreation. Remember that drowning can be prevented!



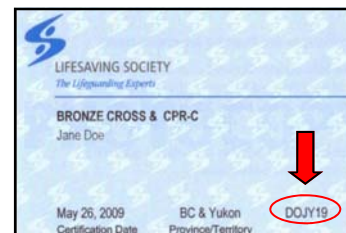
l to r: Rachel, Leah, Florence

Find-a-Member

Find-a-Member is an internet-based interface that allows the user to check Lifesaving Society certifications and the current status of each. To access the service, all that is required is the member's personal Lifesaving Society ID code found in the bottom right hand corner of all certification cards.

Find-a-Member can be accessed from the Society's Web site at no cost, from anywhere, anytime.

Some of the benefits include:



- Employers can obtain immediate confirmation of certifications of staff members - no telephone tag, no busy signals.

• Employers can readily verify current instructor certification required to teach specific courses like NLS or Standard First Aid

- Employers can check prerequisites for staff or potential staff who are taking courses
- Employers can easily identify expiry dates for applicants' certifications and plan to host the needed recertifications as appropriate
- Health Inspectors can verify employee certifications when doing inspections

WaterWise Begins 10th Season

The *WaterWise Boat Safety Team* has been in action since early May and has already begun *WaterWise Wisdom* presentations in schools throughout the province. The program contains information on the five key *WaterWise* safety messages, including the importance of PFDs, the dangers of drinking and boating, the impact of being environmentally friendly, and how to stay *WaterWise* when in, on, and around the water. The team is eagerly awaiting their first event VIHA's *Safe Kids Week* in Victoria at the end of May.



AED Program



AEDs are becoming increasingly common in aquatic and recreation facilities to assist in the rescue of a victim suffering from a cardiac arrest. The Lifesaving Society AED Program is based on current Heart & Stroke Foundation Guidelines, meets all WorkSafe BC recommendations and has a Medical Director overseeing the program.

Let us help you set up an AED deployment and training program for all your recreation facilities. Please contact Wendy at the branch for any inquiries.

"The Lifesaving Society worked closely with us to develop policies and procedures for AED deployment specific to our facility and response locations...we received a comprehensive package that included training guidelines, protocols, AED maintenance and procedures to follow in the event of a defibrillation response. We were very pleased with the program that the Lifesaving Society developed for our facilities and would recommend the program to other organizations."

- Debbie Vant Kruis, Terrace Aquatic Centre

AdventureSmart Summer Teams



l to r: Meghan, Tori, Erin, Beth

The new AdventureSmart Teams are getting geared up and ready to kick off the ninth season of the program! With a wealth of outdoor recreation experience, expertise and enthusiasm, Beth, Erin, Meghan and Tori are ready to roll!

The Kelowna AdventureSmart Team, Beth and Erin, will be in sunny Kelowna this summer attending great commu-

nity events. They are ready to enjoy the sunny skies, cool lake breezes and spread the AdventureSmart safety message of "Get informed & go outdoors!"

The Vancouver AdventureSmart Team, Meghan and Tori, are excited to hit the road this summer, spending time providing information about trip planning, proper training and essential gear. Keep your eyes open for the AdventureSmart truck as they pull into cool events such as *Trail Sense Days*, *Crankworx* and the *North Shore Bike Festival*!

If you would like one of the free AdventureSmart presentations for your students, campers, friends or family, you can contact Sandra at teamcoordinator@adventuresmart.ca for more information.

Eight Year Old Drowns in Municipal Pool

On May 20, 2006 eight year old Jordan drowned in a municipal swimming pool while attending a family swim with Daniel, his nine year old brother and his grandfather who did not accompany the boys in the pool. Jordan and Daniel were non-swimmers and had lifejackets that they were to wear while in the pool. Jordan wanted to go down the waterslide, but was not allowed to wear the lifejacket due to the potential of zippers and snaps scratching the slide. After removing his lifejacket and using the slide, Jordan entered the deep end of the pool without his lifejacket and began to play with another child using a floating mat. Within a few minutes, the lifeguard was pulling Jordan off the bottom of the deep end. He could not be revived. Following a public inquiry, on May 11, 2009 Judge Bruce A. Millar released seven recommendations including:

- **"Initiate a comprehensive review of Regulations and their enforcement."**

The Lifesaving Society has the expertise and provides a service to audit a pool, i.e. where is the problem and recommend a plan. At this point in time, regulation provides that pool operators may consult the Society...Why not consult this expertise? This question needs to be answered by government and I recommend a comprehensive review of Regulations and their enforcement, with an emphasis on the safety of the bathers, in consultation with the Lifesaving Society and other stakeholders."

- **"Ensure all 'responsible persons' are certified with the Lifesaving Society Aquatic Management Training certification or equivalent training."**

In all aquatic facilities there are management personnel responsible for the direction of aquatic staff. In order to ensure they are familiar with aquatic standards, all management personnel must receive training. The Lifesaving Society has a certification program that would ensure personnel have the necessary information to safely manage aquatic facilities."

- **"Promote the completion of the Lifesaving Society Comprehensive Aquatic Safety Audit."**

The purpose of the aquatic audit is to maximize the safety of participants utilizing public pools. An aquatic safety audit identifies what steps might be taken to minimize the risk of drowning or serious water-related injuries in aquatic facilities. To enhance safety, owner/operators should be encouraged to undergo a Lifesaving Society comprehensive safety audit. Such an audit would have identified that one lifeguard during a family swim at the OAC was insufficient."

Jordan's drowning occurred in Alberta. To help us prevent a similar scenario from happening in BC, please take note of the recommendations. For assistance in accomplishing them, contact the BC & Yukon Branch of the Lifesaving Society.