



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

# Investiture *citations*

## Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

MG GRIFFITHS CERTIFICATE CITATION

OCTOBER 12, 2018 | GOVERNMENT HOUSE | EDMONTON, AB

## Margaret Bell

GLENMORE RESERVOIR, CALGARY, ALBERTA – AUGUST 1, 2017

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.

On August 1, 2017, Margaret Bell, a mother of two, was out for an early morning run at North Glenmore Park when she noticed an empty boat near the shore and Calgary Canoe Club. As she approached, she thought there was an animal in the water. However, as she got closer she realized that it was a person in the process of drowning. Margaret immediately went into the water in an attempt to pull the man to shore. She instructed him to hold onto her jacket and float on his back as she swam to shore. Margaret can swim and has taken lifesaving training. The man was very tired and hypothermic. She ran up a nearby pathway and flagged down a cyclist who called 911. The cyclist stayed on the pathway to direct first responders while Margaret ran back down to be with the man on the shore.

Once first responders arrived on scene the man was breathing and conscious though not completely lucid. The man was transported to hospital in stable, non-life threatening condition and was treated for mild hypothermia.

The Calgary Fire Department also recognized her heroic actions in saving this man's life and recommended Margaret for the "Beyond the Call" award.

It was later determined that the boat found near the shore did not belong to the man and it is unclear if he was connected to it in any way. How the man obtained the boat to take it for a ride on the reservoir or ended up in the water is unclear. The boat had no oars.

For her quick response and outstanding effort, **Margaret Bell** is awarded the M.G. Griffiths Certificate.