



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

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Investiture *citations*

Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

MG GRIFFITHS CERTIFICATE CITATION

OCTOBER 12, 2018 | GOVERNMENT HOUSE | EDMONTON, AB

Shauna Recknagle

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

Shauna Recknagle was in her kayak near the swim area when she noticed the boat 40-50 feet away from her. She observed that the motor and back of the boat was underwater and a man was standing in the boat. She saw that the boat was sinking and quickly paddled over. As she arrived on scene the boat capsized. She saw the man hanging onto the boat and asked if he could swim and he said not a lot because he had no hands. She rolled out of her boat, swam it to him, and asked him to hold onto the nose of the boat so they could kick back to shore. The started out but he had trouble holding on with no fingers or thumbs. Another man, Alex Thompson, arrived on scene and they both began to move Ken back to shore. Shauna told Ken to hug the boat while floating on his back and they 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 her quick response and outstanding effort, **Shauna Recknagle** is awarded the M.G. Griffiths Certificate.