



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

The Lifeguarding Experts

Canadian Examples of Heroism

THE MOUNTBATTEN MEDAL

The Mountbatten Medal was instituted in 1951 by the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth and named after the Society's then Grand President, The Earl Mountbatten of Burma. The Mountbatten Medal is given annually for the most gallant rescue or rescue attempt undertaken throughout the Commonwealth by the holder of a Royal Life Saving Society Award.

ROBERT BYRON WARDLE
of Tilley, Alberta, Canada
1951

While playing with her brother, a little girl fell into a cistern which had been placed below the surface of the ground. By reason of the small opening and the depth of the water it was necessary for Robert Wardle to get into the cistern, feet first with no possibility of escaping without help.

Lack of light, coldness of water, board and a nail keg, and other refuse which children at different times had thrown in the tank, hampered Robert from locating the body at the bottom of the cistern. Having done so, he brought her to the surface and passed her through the small opening.

The water in the cistern was 10 feet deep, the manhole to the cistern was about 18 inches square and three feet above the surface of the water. The diameter of the cistern was just 5 feet.

The child had been in the water for about 10 minutes, breathing had stopped and the patient looked blue. Robert Wardle applied artificial respiration and the child was afterwards taken to the hospital suffering from shock. After two days she made a complete recovery. Robert Wardle is a holder of the Bronze Medallion award.

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