



1963 Mountbatten Medal – Kenneth Howlett

Mr. Howlett, a United Church Student Minister, was driving in a car with friends near the North Saskatchewan River in Edmonton on the afternoon of 4th December, 1963, when he noticed three boys apparently in trouble on the ice near the river bank. One boy, aged three, was in the water but clinging to the edge of the ice, and was pulled out by one of Mr. Howlett's companions. Another boy, a brother aged four, was face downwards in the water and drifting down the river. Mr. Howlett immediately stripped off most of his clothing and entered the water with a makeshift lifeline of shirts, belts, etc.. When this proved too short, he let go and swam to the boy. After towing the boy back, using a cross chest carry, Mr. Howlett applied the Direct (Expired Air) method of artificial respiration while holding on to the edge of the ice and before being assisted with the boy from the water. The temperature of the water was approximately 33° Fahrenheit, and the air temperature was minus 38 degrees. Mr. Howlett's immediate action in entering the water without thought of his own safety, and the application of artificial respiration at the first possible moment undoubtedly saved the life of the four year old boy. Mr. Howlett is a holder of the Bronze Medallion and the Senior Artificial Respiration Certificate.