
Media Release

For Immediate Release
DATE: October 28, 2022

Survivor Pays it Forward with an AED Stand Donation

SUMMERLAND - Local resident Al Klar suffered a heart attack that left him unconscious on June 21, 2021, at his business, Range Rider Canopies. Two nearby bylaw officers immediately called 911 and performed CPR until an ambulance with an automated external defibrillator (AED) arrived minutes later. A single shock from the AED successfully resuscitated Mr. Klar.

Klar shared, "It was an emotional time for my family. I was passed out in my office. My office is very close to where they park the ambulances. I think I got all the help in less than five minutes; it was a Godsend."

Now, Klar is donating a state-of-the-art premium AED so that others will have a better chance of survival if faced with a similar situation. "This is my home, I've been part of the community for 40 years," said Klar. "This is the least I could do. In the future if things happen, this machine is available in this town."

The St. John Ambulance website states, "Through CPR and the use of an AED, chance of survival can reach up to 75%. Without CPR and a shock from an AED, the casualty is not likely to survive past 10 minutes."

"This generous donation will benefit our community greatly," said Mayor Toni Boot. "We are fortunate to have two ambulances and, since late 2021, eight full time permanent paramedics at the Summerland station. But should an ambulance not be readily available, this AED LaunchPAD Stand could make all the difference in surviving cardiac arrest. On behalf of Council, I again thank you, Mr. Klar, for your generosity."

A permanent St. John Ambulance LaunchPAD—a one-of-a-kind Community Defibrillator Stand—will be installed the last week in October in Memorial Park at the corner of Wharton Street and Kelly Avenue. This location was chosen for its proximity to downtown and the new destination playground, and because of the numerous large scale community events that take place at or near this location.

This AED LaunchPAD Stand will be available on a 24/7 basis year-round, is highly visible, is weatherproof and emits an audible alarm when opened. This premium AED costs upwards of \$10,000 installed. For more information on St. John Ambulance's Start Me Up BC program and community defibrillators visit www.startmeupbc.ca.

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For further information/Media Contact/Contact

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Photos attached.

IMG_2117B AED LaunchPAD Stand

IMG_2124B Left to Right: Mr. Al Klar, District of Summerland Bylaw officer Darren Krell

IMG_2133B Left to Right: Mr. Al Klar, wife Harminder Klar, daughter Mandy Klar, grandson Zorawar Dhaliwal, and Mayor Toni Boot

IMG_2143B Left to Right: Mr. Al Klar, councillor Marten Van Alphen, Harminder Klar, Zorawar Dhaliwal, Mandy Klar, Mayor Toni Boot, Mayor-Elect/Councillor Dough Holmes, Bylaw Officer Darren Krell, Councillor Richard Barkwill and Councillor-Elect Janet Peake

IMG_2151B Left to Right: Mr. Al Klar, wife Harminder Klar, grandson Zorawar Dhaliwal, daughter Mandy Klar, Mayor Toni Boot, St. John Ambulance Kelowna Branch Manager Bev Smith