

Women Honoured for Acts of Bravery

By Shawn Bent

Local 503 is proud of its membership and recognizes members involved in community and/or volunteer organizations. In addition, it also recognizes members who have demonstrated incredible acts of courage. And a perfect example is illustrated in the story below.

It was a mild evening on January 7th 2008. Two paramedic dispatchers, Nadine Leduc and Tara Josey, were out for a coffee run during a long shift. After purchasing their coffees, they headed out of the Tim Horton's on Walkley Road, close to the Conroy intersection. The parking lot was filled with people as they headed back to Tara's car.

All of a sudden, a high-pitched "pow, pow, pow" ripped through the night air. Nadine didn't think much of it as she thought it was a bunch of kids setting off firecrackers, which is what it sounded like. Turns out it was bullets whizzing through the air, a couple just missing the two women.

With people running, screaming and scattering like mice, one person screamed, "He's shot, he's shot!" The two women turned to see a man writhing on the ground, visibly injured. They ran over to him to give him aid while everyone else was running away and they happened to see a car speeding away. People were anxiously looking out the windows of the surrounding stores as they got to work on the injured man.

Nadine gave him aid and called 911 as Tara gathered information from him. At this point, neither one saw who shot the man and they didn't make the connection at that moment. Staying crouched and in a puddle of water, both women started checking the man to see where he was injured. As she was checking, Nadine came upon a purple mass underneath the man's left armpit that wasn't bleeding. However, she had come upon a bullet hole under his right armpit that was bleeding.

Nadine tended to the wound and the man's vitals while Tara talked to him in order to keep him alert and gather information on his medical history. At one point, he had difficulty breathing and had to be rolled onto his side. Tara continued talking to him, despite the fact that he was losing consciousness and having difficulty speaking during that time.

The two women stayed with the man amidst the danger (and possible upcoming danger) around them, waiting for additional help to arrive. During that time, they heard more high-pitched "pow, pow, pow" and thought the shooters had returned.

A few minutes later, the police arrived to secure the scene. The medics had arrived as well, but weren't allowed in until the scene was fully secured. Finally, the police let them in so they could tend to the injured man. The two women gave them a quick patient update/report and he was rushed off to the trauma hospital.

Afterwards, Nadine and Tara were debriefed by the critical incident team and then went to 474 Elgin Street to be interviewed by detectives. All this time, even after all of the excitement, the women were still wondering what had happened...

On October 28, 2011, both women were awarded Medals of Bravery from the Governor General.



Paramedic Dispatcher Nadine Leduc and Governor General David Johnston

What Nadine had learned from the incident is enough to inspire us all: People react differently and instinctively. She (and Tara) could not, not help the man. Nadine is fully aware that she could've been a victim in that incident and you just don't know when your time comes.

Nadine has a saying: Live for the dash, for when you look at a tombstone, you see the date the person was born and the day that they died. How did they "live the dash" in between?

How are you living your "dash"?

