



Aqualines

Lifesaving news for Nova Scotians

5516 Spring Garden Road, 4th Floor • Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1G6 • Tel: 902-425-5450 Ext. 331 • Fax: 902-425-5606
 Email: gordonr@lifesavingsociety.ns.ca • Website: www.lifesavingsociety.ns.ca

SWIM TO SURVIVE SUPPLEMENT



DEMETREOUS BEALS FUND UPDATE

Following the drowning of Demetrious Beals in Lake Banook in 2007 there was an outpouring of support and sympathy for the Beals family. Following a grassroots initiative from friends of the Beals family and residents of communities surrounding Lake Banook, the Lifesaving Society established the *Demetrious Beals Foundation*.

In the six months following the creation of the fund the society has received donations totalling approximately \$5,000.

Initiatives undertaken with this funding and the generous assistance of the Dartmouth Sportsplex has provided the opportunity for children in the summer day camps operated by the Boys and Girls Club of Dartmouth, the Dartmouth East Boys and Girls Club and East Preston Boys and Girls Club to all attend **Swim to Survive** classes.

Banook Canoe Club and the Lifesaving Society partnered to provide **Swim to Survive** for twenty children affiliated with the Dartmouth North Community Centre and the Dartmouth family Centre.

Students of BI-HI have all been given the opportunity to take free **Swim to Survive** courses.

WORLD LEADERSHIP AWARD

In 2007 the City of Mississauga, Ontario was nominated for a World Leadership Award in the "Education and/or Development of the Young" category for its role in the Lifesaving Society's **Swim to Survive** Program. Although Mississauga and **Swim to Survive** did not win the award it was short-listed with one other city- Lima, Peru.

The World Leadership Awards are given to cities whose leaders have shown exceptional imagination, foresight or resilience in a number of key fields – especially cities that have reversed trends, shaken off traditional images, and acted as an example and inspiration to others.

Of children taught **Swim to Survive** by Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service:

- 31% had not had any formal swimming lessons
- 69 % had taken swimming lessons

Swim to Survive Standard:

- Roll into deep water
- Tread Water 1 minute
- Swim 50 meters



Mississauga played a leadership role in piloting the **Swim to Survive** Program. Subsequently, the Ontario government and private foundations have provided grant money to the Society, which has enabled Grade 3 students throughout Ontario to take (a minimum of) 3 **Swim to Survive** lessons with 3 in-class Water Smart lessons. Over 120,000 Ontario elementary school age children have gained **Swim to Survive** training

LIFEGUARD LEADERSHIP

The good work started by the Lifesaving Society's National Lifeguards and the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service this summer continued on into the fall. Laura Graham at National Lifeguard and Kinesiology Honours Student at Acadia University sent the Lifesaving Society a letter detailing the work she undertook as part of a class project.

Dear NS Branch Members:

This fall our Senior Seminar professor, Ann Dodge, encouraged her students to develop community-based projects to "Change The World".

I was at Birch Cove, with 70 the 70 –some odd Lifeguards the hour or more before Demetreous Beals drowned. I worked hard with the other members of the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service to certify patrons with Swim to Survive. Each drowning incident I heard of that summer bothered me more than the one before it.

When it came time to put on our "Change the World" project into action here at Acadia we decided to approach the organizers of the SKILE program (Sensory Motor Instructional Learning Experience) – a volunteer group of students working with intellectually disabled children in the pool to teach them social, motor and cognitive skills.

We certified 31 SMILE children in total.

Laura Graham, CPT

Thank You

The Lifesaving Society would like to thank Jeff Mills and Marsh Canada for Marsh's generous donation to the **Demetreous Beals Fund**. The money donated by Marsh in 2007 has been instrumental in providing many of the **Swim to Survive** programs throughout the HRM.

AquaLines

Aqualines is a publication of the Lifesaving Society Nova Scotia Branch. For more information on Lifesaving Society initiatives and programs, visit www.lifesavingsociety.ns.ca