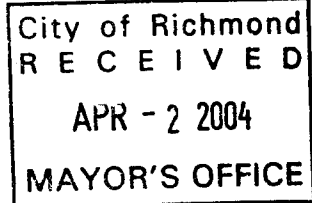




RIDEAU HALL



LA CHANCELLERIE  
THE CHANCELLERY

March 25, 2004

Your Worship:

I wish to thank you for accepting to present the Certificate of Commendation awarded by the Governor General, on the recommendation of the Canadian Decorations Advisory Committee, to Mr. Alexander St. Pierre in recognition of his actions following an incident in Richmond, on January 12, 2003.

Since the creation of the Certificate of Commendation, it has been our tradition to request that a prominent official present the document on behalf of Her Excellency the Governor General. The time, place and venue are left to your discretion. I would appreciate if you would inform our office of the date of the event in order to complete our files.

I have enclosed a fact sheet about the award, as well as information relating to the incident. If, however, you require additional information, please do not hesitate to call Mrs. Sylvie Barsalou, Coordinator, Decorations, at 1-800-465-6890.

Your assistance and interest in recognizing worthy Canadians are greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mary de Bellefeuille-Percy  
Director, Honours

Enclosures

His Worship Malcolm Brodie  
Mayor, City of Richmond  
6911, #3 Road  
Richmond, British Columbia  
V6Y 2C1

SB/pg

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## **Certificate of Commendation**

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### **Last known address:**

Mr. Alexander St. Pierre  
12011 No. 4 Road  
Richmond BC V7A 3A1  
Tel.: 604-277-8214

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### ***Summary of Actions***

On January 12, 2003, Alexander ST. PIERRE pulled an injured man from a burning vehicle. Please see enclosed newspaper clipping.



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## **Certificate of Commendation**

In 1993, the Governor General approved the creation of a Certificate of Commendation to be issued to those who have made a significant contribution by providing assistance to another person in a selfless manner.

The Certificate of Commendation is signed by the Governor General and is intended for eligible candidates whose actions are deemed notable by the Canadian Decorations Advisory Committee. The Commendation is not automatic; eligible candidates are selected through a voting process.

## **Certificat de Mention d'honneur**

Le Gouverneur général a approuvé, en 1993, la création d'une mention d'honneur qui sera décernée à ceux et à celles qui ont porté un geste admirable et désintéressé en faveur d'autrui.

La mention d'honneur est signée par le Gouverneur général et destinée aux candidats admissibles dont les gestes sont jugés dignes par le Conseil des décorations canadiennes. La mention n'est pas accordée automatiquement à tous les candidats -- elle fait l'objet d'un vote.

# Rescued from a burning wreck

Young rescuer likely saved driver's life

by Chris Bryan  
Staff Reporter

A young man involved in a recent car crash on No. 4 Road may owe his life to the quick thinking of a fellow teenager.

Alex St. Pierre was sound asleep early Jan. 12 when he was awoken at 3 a.m. by a loud crash outside his house on No. 4 Road south of Steveston Highway.

"I thought it was an appliance that blew up," said St. Pierre, a Grade 12 student at Charles E. London Secondary. "It sounded like it was in the house."

It turned out to be a 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix driven by a 19-year-old that, according to police, didn't turn at the curve and wound up running through a chain-link fence and smashing into a tree.

St. Pierre rushed outside. "It was already on fire. It was burning. I wasn't expecting anybody to be able to survive that, but you've got to open the door."

Inside, he found the driver, blood on his face, pinned behind the wheel.

"He said 'can you please help me? I've got to get out.'"

St. Pierre's fire safety training, thanks to his job at Ironwood Chevron, kicked in. He knew there could be a fuel leak and he'd better get the driver away quickly.

"It took a couple of minutes to get him out of the car," he said. "And I had to drag him a great distance."

He was a heavy guy, said St. Pierre, who reckoned his weight about 200 pounds.

"I'm like 155."

In the meantime, his aunt was using a hose to keep down the flames on the car.

Emergency crews arrived soon after.

St. Pierre only learned the driver's name was Dave, and since then hasn't heard how he came out of his injuries.

Due to privacy laws, emergency services were unable to provide the driver's identity.

But Richmond RCMP has



Mark Patrick photo

Alex St. Pierre at the site where he discovered a burning car with an injured driver inside.

confirmed, however, that alcohol was involved and charges are now being considered against the young man.

St. Pierre said the incident left him shaken up.

"It was actually hours before I could sleep. But I was too tired to do anything."

St. Pierre downplayed his involvement in the inci-

dent, and hasn't said much about it to others, though his actions may have saved a life.

"I just did what I thought was right."

His low-key nature, and the fact the rescue was completed by the time emergency crews arrived, means few noticed a hero in their midst. In fact, it was thanks to a reader that

*The Review* learned of the deed.

"We'd certainly like to recognize it if something like that happened," said Doug Hystad of Richmond Fire Rescue.

Regardless, his mother Lynn is pretty proud.

"I was certainly proud of him, but I was frightened for him. I'm glad everything turned out all right."



RIDEAU HALL

LA CHANCELLERIE  
THE CHANCELLERY

March 25, 2004

Dear Mr. St. Pierre:

On behalf of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, I am pleased to inform you that a Certificate of Commendation has been awarded to you on the recommendation of the Canadian Decorations Advisory Committee in recognition of your actions following an incident in Richmond, on January 12, 2003.

The Certificate of Commendation was created in 1993 to be issued to those who have made a significant contribution by providing assistance to another person in a selfless manner. It is intended for eligible candidates whose actions are deemed notable by the Committee. The Commendation is not automatic; eligible candidates are selected through a voting process.

His Worship Malcolm Brodie, Mayor of the City of Richmond, has kindly accepted to present you with the certificate on behalf of the Governor General; he will communicate directly with you in due course.

Your selfless actions are an inspiration to others and represent a high form of citizenship of which you can be very proud. The Governor General takes pleasure in extending to you her warmest congratulations, to which I add my own.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with Mrs. Sylvie Barsalou at 1-800-465-6890.

Yours sincerely,

for James C. Gervais  
Lieutenant General (Retd)  
Deputy Secretary

Enclosure

Mr. Alexander St. Pierre  
12011 No. 4 Road  
Richmond, British Columbia  
V7A 3A1

SB\pg

c.c. His Worship Malcolm Brodie, Mayor of the City of Richmond