



The John MacGregor Memorial Award For Valourous actions by a Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue Group in British Columbia Purpose, Criteria, Process and Award

John MacGregor (VC, MC and Bar, DCM) is Canada's most decorated soldier for valour, who during WW1 served over three years in the horrific trenches of the Western Front (including Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, the Somme, and Cambrai) as a fearless soldier and gallant leader of men. He was also a selfless civilian when, in 1921, captaining his boat in the Hecate Strait he made quick decisions to cut and release all his fishing lines to save the life of a badly injured crew member; and again in 1923 when he alone fearlessly boarded a flaming vessel in Prince Rupert, cut its lines to save a commercially valuable wharf, then axed a hole to sink the vessel; he swam to safety but not before suffering serious burns requiring lengthy hospitalization. During WW2 Lt. Col. John MacGregor commanded the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regiment based in Victoria training soldiers for overseas duty. After the war, he resumed working and living in Powell River until his death from cancer there on June 9th 1952 at the age of 63. As eulogized by a fellow soldier and long-time friend, "I saw that here was a man's man; a brave and kindly soul who was capable of lifting the most timid of us to almost heroic proportions by his own magnificent example".

Purpose of the Award: The purpose of the John MacGregor Memorial Award is two-fold: to raise awareness of the man and keep alive the memory of his valourous contributions to Canada's role in WW1; and to recognize in his name the selfless and brave volunteer members of all Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) Groups in B.C., while annually highlighting the actions of one (or more, funds permitting) Group(s) as most deserving of the Award.

Criteria: To be considered for the Award, a GSAR Group will demonstrate valour by: (1) actions taken during a response requiring extraordinary efforts while maintaining member safety; and/or (2) actions taken during training or other event which reduce suffering or save the lives of one or more persons while maintaining member safety.

Process: The twelve geographic regions represented in the British Columbia Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) will in January of each year nominate one of the GSAR Groups in their region whose actions in the previous year are deemed by their peers in the region to be conspicuously valourous, per the Award criteria. The BCSARA Regional Directors will review the nominees and, by majority vote, decide the winner of the John MacGregor Memorial Award for that year. (A nomination may be carried over to the following year at the request of the submitting Regional Director). The BCSARA will communicate to all concerned, arrange a public presentation of the Award to the GSAR Group so honoured and in memory of John MacGregor.

Administration of the Award: Founded by John MacGregor Horne in 2021, the John MacGregor Memorial Award is established as an endowment fund at the Victoria Foundation, qualifying for an appropriate share of the annual investment returns earned by the Foundation's overall assets under management. The endowment will be sufficient to provide an annual award of \$8,500, to be used by the GSAR Group for purposes it deems beneficial to the services of its volunteer members. With growth over time, the endowment may provide for an annual maximum of three awards.