

Malcolm Cairnie – Recipient of COPR’s ACP Award of Excellence for 2023



The COPR 2023 ACP Award of Excellence goes to Malcolm Cairnie. Malcolm grew up in Renfrew, Ontario, but has spent his paramedic career in British Columbia, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. He first became interested in EMS while volunteering as an EMR in Watson Lake, YT, and received his PCP certificate in 2018. After three years as a PCP in BC, with stints as a flight PCP in the NWT and as a wildland firefighter, he attended Holland College’s Advanced Care Paramedic program. Despite the night shifts, Malcolm loves being a paramedic. It constantly gives him opportunities to improve himself, learn from his partners, and above all, make patients feel safe and cared for.

Malcolm would like to gratefully thank the many mentors who have shaped his practice, even if they didn’t know he was watching: PCPs Nathan Best, John Tebulte, and Darnell Cooper; CCP Aris Scott; and the many ACPs who have been kind enough to share their knowledge while he drove them around. Special thanks to ACPs Chris Bellamy, Jen Nairn, Mike Webber, Will Riordon, Brandon Baillie, Lucy Fredericks, and Mike Burgwin.

Malcolm loves walking in North Vancouver’s mountains, swimming in cold water, and falling off of walls. Otherwise, he spends his free time volunteering with Shelter Movers Vancouver, studying flashcards, and using his physio benefits.

Claire Swanston – Recipient of COPR’s PCP Award of Excellence for 2023



Claire Swanston is COPR’s PCP Award of Excellence Recipient for 2023. Claire grew up in Victoria, BC. In high school, she loved learning about human biology which led her to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus. While at University, she started volunteering with St. John Ambulance. Through St. John Ambulance she got her advanced medical first responder certification to provide first aid at community events. Before this, Claire had never considered a career in paramedicine but volunteering alongside so many smart and passionate paramedics inspired her to start down the pathway of becoming a paramedic.

She completed her degree in 2021, receiving a Dean’s List distinction for outstanding academic achievement and then quickly obtained her EMR license. She began her paramedic career in November of 2021, working for BCEHS in Smithers, BC. Working in Smithers was an excellent start to her career, due to the incredible support and sense of community at this small station. After one year, she moved home to Victoria to attend the PCP program at the JIBC Victoria campus. Working for BCEHS also gave her the flexibility to transfer to a nearby station in

Central Saanich to continue working part-time.

After completing her PCP certificate in July of 2023, she moved to Whitehorse, YT, where she now works for Yukon EMS.

Outside of work, Claire spends her time going to the gym, cooking, hiking, and camping. It’s really important to Claire that she continues to build her medical knowledge, so she also spend lots of time reading and listening to podcasts.

Claire would like to thank her PCP classmates for creating such a great classroom community, as well as her preceptors, instructors, and program coordinator for creating a supportive and constructive learning environment.

Erica Haggart – Recipient of COPR’s EMR Award of Excellence for 2023



Erica Haggart of Onoway, Alberta, is the recipient of the COPR 2023 EMR Award of Excellence. Erica grew up on a farm near Onoway. She graduated from Onoway Junior/Senior High School in 2020 before continuing her education at MacEwan University and then completing the Emergency Medical Responder Course at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT).

In high school, Erica was particularly interested in biology and decided to pursue a career in the medical field. After completing her EMR training at NAIT, and successfully passing the COPR examination to receive her EMR certification, she was hired by New Venture Safety Services Ltd. based in Whitecourt, Alberta. New Venture Safety Services Ltd. provides trained safety and medical personnel to client job sites. During her tenure with New Venture, Erica had the opportunity to provide EMR services to firefighters during the 2023 Alberta fire season and at numerous oilfield work sites. Services she provides at worksites include monitoring personnel safety and ensuring compliance with safety regulations, providing routine first aid, emergency medical care, and emergency evacuations

as required. She enjoys the diverse work environments, experiences, and personnel she has had the privilege to serve and looks forward to many more opportunities to use her training to provide safety, emergency medical, and first aid resources.

When Erica is not providing EMR services, she enjoys many outdoor activities such as horseback riding, skating, cross-country skiing, paddleboarding, and hiking. She also enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and pets.

Erica would especially like to thank her instructors at NAIT, including a special thank you to Darrel Staigh for always taking the extra time and care with students to ensure their success. She would also like to thank her many jobsite clients, employers, and coworkers at New Venture Safety for their support. While working with Alberta Wildfire this past summer, Erica developed an interest in Emergency Response Planning. She plans to further her training and pursue an education in Disaster and Emergency Management in the upcoming year.