

# DR RICHARD PAUL WHITLOCK OF HAMILTON, ONTARIO

Long time BCGS member Joan Fishleigh noticed an article in the April 2008 *Readers' Digest* that mentioned Dr. Richard Whitlock of Hamilton, Ontario and remembered that I collected everything Whitlock. It took a bit for Joan to track me down but when she did she forwarded the article on to me.

The article was written by Christine Langlois and was titled *Out Cold*. It told the story of 17 year old Nathan Taylor who got pinned in a rushing ice filled drain. When he was finally rescued his body temperature was 19 degrees centigrade, at which temperature he should have already died. Nathan was rushed to the Hamilton Health Services Hospital where the staff worked to warm Nathan's blood. Conventional methods were not working fast enough and it was decided they had one last chance by connecting Nathan's heart to a heart-lung machine used for open heart surgery and using this machine to warm his blood. Dr. Richard Whitlock, chief cardiac surgery resident was available and could perform this procedure.

The article details Dr. Whitlock's operation. With Nathan's chest open and his heart connected, "his body temperature had reached 30°. That's when his heart quivered almost imperceptibly. The ECG line squiggled slightly. Whitlock touched a defibrillator paddle to the heart, shocking it; it jiggled like jelly. Two more shocks, then, finally a real-but-weak beat. Then a second beat, stronger. And on it went."

Despite having been technically dead for more that 10 minutes, but with constant CPR, Nathan made a full recovery with no loss of brain function.

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Our thanks to Joan Fishleigh for this article. I am not sure how Dr. Richard Paul Whitlock fits into the Whitlock family but hopefully we will be add him in the near future.

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