

GREG FENTON

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Hero: What's all the fuss about?

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Greg Fenton plucked an American family from a car teetering on the edge of a cliff. But he isn't sure what all the fuss is about.

"I would hope that anyone would have done what I did," shrugged Fenton, back in Grande Prairie after last Tuesday's rescue.

The 24-year-old pulled Pam and Stan Phillips and their three-year-old son J.W. from their car after they nearly plunged down a mountainside in Banff National Park.

The Phillips family, visiting Canada for the first time from Scottsdale Ariz., was touring the steep, winding road on Mount Norquay when they glanced over at some deer.

The car swerved off the road, two tires spinning over the cliff's edge.

"That's when I rounded the corner and I saw them sitting there," said Fenton, who was driving to pick up his parents at the ski hill.

The Phillips sat petrified in the car tottering over a 20-metre embankment, engine still running — and son J.W. strapped in the back seat.

"We were literally at a 45-degree angle," recalled Pam, in Scottsdale. "We were definitely teetering."

That's when they heard Fenton's voice, "I'm here to help you."

"They had their window rolled down so I was able to talk to them," said Fenton.

"They were pretty scared and they had every right to be. It was just shock. They were on the road and then suddenly they were off it, leaning at a 45-degree angle. Their voices were a little quaky."

He told the Phillips' to stay calm.

"The first thing they said was 'Get the child out.'"

Fenton hauled the boy from the child seat, careful not to put any weight on the car and send it crashing against the rocks below.

"I went back and Pam was crawling out over her husband out the open driver's side window and I pulled her out."

Fenton returned and helped Stan escape through the same window.

"Honestly, it was just a miracle," said Pam. "God was with us and we each had an angel on our shoulder."

After Fenton made sure no one was injured and someone else had phoned for help, he left to pick up his parents at the ski resort.

"I came back down and I stopped again to make sure if they were still OK."

The Phillips thanked him but in the confusion, never learned his name.

They spent the past week searching for the nameless hero.

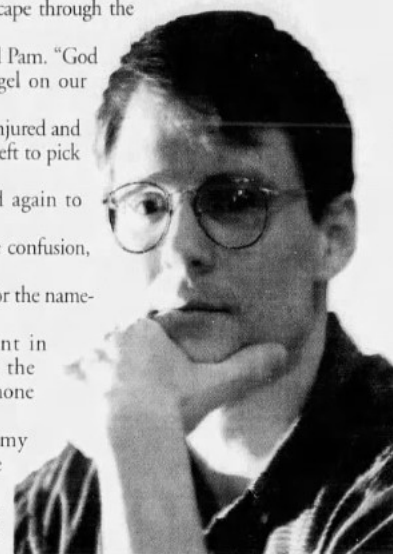
Finally, with the help of his aunt in Calgary, Fenton was identified and the grateful family spoke with him by phone from Scottsdale.

"She just thanked me and took my address. They were very appreciative that I did stop."

Fenton, an engineer at Schlumberger, brushes aside any accolades for his actions.

"I think it was just instinct. I wouldn't want to be in that situation myself," he said.

"Talking to people now, some people think it was heroic but I just did what I thought I had to do. I'm happy that I did it but I didn't expect all this to come of it."



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