

200 York Region teachers trained in CPR and defibrillation

By Wendy Soloduik

This time, it's the teachers that got schooled.

York Region teachers were taught lifesaving skills last Tuesday through the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation High School CPR and Defibrillator Training Program.

The event took place at Bill Crothers Secondary School in Unionville and is a program in partnership with the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

"My sincere congratulations to the ACT Foundation and their partners for their tremendous commitment and hard work to

bring this initiative to York Region high schools," said Michael Chan, MPP for Markham-Unionville. "Our government is proud to have provided support, ensuring our youth acquire valuable knowledge and the skills that will save lives and strengthen our community."

Now equipped with these lifesaving skills, teachers will go on to train more than 14,000 high school students from 48 high schools in the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board with the help of over 1,700 durable mannequins and 244 defibrillator training units being donated to schools.

"I am a long-time advocate of citizen CPR and defibrillation training," says Dr. Dave Williams, President and CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre. "From my university student days as a CPR Instructor, to leading the implementation of an AED program at NASA and taking the first defibrillator into space as an astronaut, I am very proud as President and CEO to play a key role in supporting this exciting program for our schools and youth."

The ACT Foundation, a national charitable organization that is establishing CPR and defibrillator training programs in all Canadian high schools is "committed to bring-

ing the program to York Region and to all high schools across Canada", with the help of health partners, AstraZeneca Canada, Pfizer Canada, and Sanofi.

The ACT training program is built on an "award-winning community-based model of partnerships and support" funded by provincial partners: The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Hydro One, and in the community by: TransCanada Corporation, IBM Canada Ltd., Molise Kleinburg Estates, N a s h v i l l e Developments Inc. (TACC Developments, Arista Homes, Fieldgate Homes, Paradise Homes), the Regional Municipality

of York, and York EMS.

"We take the health, safety and well-being of our students very seriously, so we are thrilled to bring this program into all of our secondary schools," said Ken Thurston, Director of Education, York Region District School Board. "Thank you to the ACT Foundation and partners for helping to make this possible."

"The services, knowledge and emergency response training the ACT Foundation brings to our schools truly benefit our students and staff," says Susan LaRosa, Director of Education for the York Catholic District School Board. "We value the partnership we have with ACT, and their dedication to ensuring

safe and healthy school environments."

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, "eight in 10 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home. Early CPR, combined with early defibrillation can increase survival rates for cardiac arrest victims by up to 75 per cent."

"We are thrilled with the support of ACT's partners. Without them, this lifesaving program would not be possible," says ACT Foundation Executive Director Sandra Clarke. "To date, the ACT Foundation has set up the High School CPR Program in more than 1,600 schools nationwide, empowering more than 1.8 million youth to save lives."