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## Durham schools get defibrillators, training

### Grade 9 public board students learn how to use lifesaving equipment



DURHAM -- Grade 9 students in Durham will be better equipped and trained to save a life thanks to some

recent donations.

Grants from the Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation and the Heart and Stroke Foundation on behalf of the provincial government mean 78 new automated external defibrillators will be placed in Durham District School Board schools. AEDs help re-establish heart rhythm following a coronary episode. They were announced during the board's recent safety week events.

Local business Lifesavers Training Academy is donating training for the teachers who will in turn train Grade 9 physical education students.



**Defibrillator.** A defibrillator. *Ron Albertson/Torstar News Services*

"To get every Grade 9 student trained is amazing," said Donald A. Wilson principal Warren Palmer. "I know every principal is happy to have one inside their school."

Jamie Chevers, a Whitby resident whose life was saved by staff members at the Pickering Recreation Complex who used an AED on him after he collapsed in August 2009, is thrilled to see more access to defibrillators and training.

"It's absolutely vital," he said at the announcement.

Gary Gibson, the board's manager of health and safety, agrees.

"It's not an issue anymore of having defibrillators up on the wall; it's having folks who are not afraid to go up and grab the defibrillator and use it," he said. "By training Grade 9 students, we're training a generation for whom it will be just second nature to grab the defibrillator when it's needed and use it."

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