



NEWS LOCAL

High School students in Timmins learning lifesaving CPR and defibrillator training

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High school students in Timmins, and across the North, are learning vital lifesaving skills thanks to the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation and TransCanada Corporation.

The partnership was highlighted Friday in a photo opportunity at Timmins High and Vocational School where students demonstrated their abilities with CPR mannequins. The mannequins and four Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training units so that students can learn the lifesaving skills.

"This has been a huge benefit to our school," said TH&VS principal Barry Mulrone. He said high school teachers learn the skills from professional EMS paramedics who then pass on their learning to the students.

Mulrone added that other partners in the initiative include the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario, and Hydro One. The ACT Foundation's national health partners – AstraZeneca Canada, Pfizer Canada and Sanofi – are committed to bringing the program to high schools in Northeastern Ontario and across Canada, said a news release from ACT.

Mulrone said the importance of the program is that early action by first-aiders using defibrillators and CPR will increase the survivability rate for heart attack victims. As a heart attack survivor, Mulrone said it is truly important to have more and more people trained in lifesaving response, since eight of ten heart attacks occur away from hospital and health care settings.

Timmins Mayor Tom Laughren, who took part in the presentation, praised the program. Laughren, who is also a 30-year veteran of volunteer firefighting, said it is a regular part of training for firefighters and a defibrillator unit is always on the firetruck.

Laughren presented a plaque of appreciation to TransCanada Community Relations Liaison Dan Stencil thanking the corporation for its community-minded gesture. Both Laughren and Stencil watched as students Jenna Wilson and Sam McPhail demonstration CPR compressions on a training mannequin.

The ACT foundation explained that each year, more than 1,200 students from 15 high schools in the District School Board Ontario North East, the Northeastern Catholic District School Board and the Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières will learn CPR and defibrillation through the ACT High School CPR and Defibrillator Training Program.

