



Students Train for CPR & Use of Defibrillators

4,000 students in Gr. 9 & 10 in Northumberland and Peterborough will be trained

Article and images by Bill Hornbostel

Students across Northumberland County are getting the training to save lives through the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillators (AEDs), thanks to a new program announced on November 29 by the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation of Canada. The announcement was accompanied by a demonstration of CPR and AED use by a class of students at St Peter's Catholic Secondary School in Peterborough.

"The ACT Foundation is a national charitable organization that empowers Canadians to save lives," said **Jennifer Edwards, Director of Operations for ACT.**

Jennifer Edwards



The ACT Foundation has partnered with community organizations in Northumberland and Peterborough to raise funds for CPR mannequins, training AEDs, and program set-up which includes training teachers to be CPR and AED instructors. “This way, we’re able to deliver the program to the students with all necessary resources at **no cost to the students, and also every student has an opportunity to learn this basic life skills,**” Edwards said. “The schools really own the programming, they own the materials, they own the mannequins.”

“We’re creating a generation of lifesavers by having this program in schools.”

Four thousand students in Grades 9 and 10 across Northumberland and Peterborough will be trained through this program. “Not only are students learning the basic life skill of CPR, but they’re learning also how to pull that defibrillator off the wall and use it if there’s an emergency situation,” said Edwards. “We’re creating a generation of lifesavers by having this program in schools.”

The ACT Foundation was able to make this happen through working with AED manufacturers (AstraZeneca Canada, Sanofi Canada, and Amgen Canada), the Government of Ontario, Hydro One, Ontario Power Generation, and the fundraising efforts of local service clubs: the Brighton Kinsmen Club, the Kinsmen Club of Campbellford, the Lions Club of Brighton, the Lions Club of Cobourg, the Peterborough Lions Club, and the Rotary Club of Port Hope. “It takes all of these people to make this happen,” said Edwards.

Daniel Levitan, Director of External Relations with Hydro One, said, “Hydro One has been partnered with them since the year 2000, and we have we have helped the foundation train over 2 million people province-wide, which is just a staggering number.”



Daniel Levitan

“At Hydro One, safety is job number one. That’s a full stop,” said Levitan. “But a very close second is how we work with our communities, and I can’t think of a better investment for us to make than in community health and safety.”

“In partnering with the ACT Foundation, we are teaching high school students how to save a life,” said Levitan. “These critical skills will help a young person know how to act quickly when a neighbour, a friend, or someone they love is in distress.”

For more information about the ACT Foundation of Canada, you may visit their Web site, actfoundation.ca, or follow them on Facebook ([@theactfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/theactfoundation)) or Twitter ([@actfoundation](https://twitter.com/actfoundation)).

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