

Gym teachers gain certification in CPR and defibrillation

Chatham This Week

More than 30 gym teachers were certified as CPR and defibrillation instructors last week in seminar held at Chatham-Kent Secondary School.

The teachers, who work for the Lambton-Kent District School Board and the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, will be teaching the life-saving techniques to their Grade 9 gym students as part of the curriculum, beginning in the second semes-

ter of this school year.

CPR has been part of the curriculum for a number of years, but schools had been bringing in outside instructors.

The funding for the instruction, as well as CPR and defibrillator kits, came from the ACT Foundation. The foundation is a national charitable organization that helps schools establish the ACT High School CPR Program. The foundation is funded by AstraZeneca Canada, Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, Pfizer

Canada and sanofi-aventis.

Chatham-Kent Secondary School teacher Tara Pettipiece help organize the day-long event.

"It's important for our youth to have these skills," said Pettipiece. She added the students are receptive to the training. "Grade 9 students want to save lives."

Pettipiece said surveys carried out at the end of the term that ask what the students learned most in class always have CPR near the top of the list.

"The more people who are certified, the higher your save rate's going to be," said Pettipiece. She added that while lectures form part of the training, the hands-on portion of the instruction is the best.

"The more hands-on instruction you have the better the kids are going to learn it," she said.



Don Robinet/Chatham This Week

Carrie Carleton, a gym teacher at John McGregor Secondary School, practises chest compressions on a mannequin during a CPR seminar held Feb. 1 at Chatham-Kent Secondary School.