



# High school students learn value of CPR training

*By Lisa Gervais, Special to the Echo*

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Almost 2,000 Grade 9 students from seven high schools in the Trillium Lakelands District School Board will undergo lifesaving CPR and defibrillator training.

The Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation launched a training program for high school students in the City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Muskoka areas on Friday, June 10.

At one point, the students taught some of the dignitaries how to do CPR and use the public access defibrillator.

Sponsor Sally Elston said the training was an "enormous gift" to a "fascinating generation of young people trained to go out into the world with an ability to help mankind in times of need and stress."

Kirkpatrick said that in a 31-year paramedic career he may have saved five people through CPR and defibrillation because "we can't get to people fast enough. Time is of the essence. We basically have three minutes to get things happening" when average response times in urban areas are 10 minutes. He said paramedics can only realistically save five per cent of people, which is why this training and having PADs in public buildings is so important.

Some 33 physical education teachers have been trained as CPR and defibrillator instructors for their students. Two hundred mannequins, 40 defibrillator mannequins and 32 defibrillator training units will be donated to schools by the Elston Charitable Foundation; provincial partners the Government of Ontario, The OTF, and Hydro One and health partners: AstraZeneca Canada, Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, Pfizer Canada and sanofi-aventis.