

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES, HALIBURTON, AND MUSKOKA AREAS TO RECEIVE LIFESAVING TRAINING IN CPR AND HOW TO USE A DEFIBRILLATOR

Over 1,800 students to be trained each year!

Lindsay – Treat teens with kindness – your life may be in their hands one day.

This June, high school students in the City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Muskoka areas are being empowered with lifesaving skills thanks to the launch of the ACT High School CPR and Defibrillator Training Program.

The Program comes to the area through a unique partnership between the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation and its community and provincial partners including, the Government of Ontario, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Hydro One.



Students in Lindsay show their defibrillator skills at schools training kickoff.

This program will see more than 1,800 Grade 9 students from seven high schools in the Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) and one high school in the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (SMCDSB) empowered to save lives every year.

The ACT High School CPR and Defibrillator Training Program is built on ACT's award-winning community-based model of partnerships and support. ACT raises funds for CPR mannequins, defibrillator mannequins, defibrillator training units, and resources for all high school schools and guides schools in program set up.

"Being able to perform CPR and use a defibrillator are important life skills. It's vital to be able to react quickly in emergency situations and I'm pleased local students will have the knowledge to do so," says Rick Johnson, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. "ACT is to be commended for setting up this lifesaving program in our schools."

Thirty-three 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. The students will take their lifesaving skills to their current and future families in the area.

"The Ontario Trillium Foundation continues to be impressed with the work the ACT Foundation is doing across the province," says L. Robin Cardozo, CEO of The Ontario Trillium Foundation. "Building healthier and more vibrant communities is our primary goal and I believe, the ACT Foundation's CPR and Defibrillator Training Program will continue to further this objective."

The ACT Foundation is a national charitable organization dedicated to establishing CPR as a mandatory program in every Canadian high school. ACT's health partners who are committed to bringing the program to Ontario and to all high schools across Canada include AstraZeneca Canada, Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, Pfizer Canada and sanofi-aventis.

"Hydro One continues to support the ACT Foundation's CPR and Defibrillator Training Program, because we believe it is important to invest in this important health and safety initiative," says Camilla Rogalski, Community Investment

Coordinator at Hydro One. "It is vital to assist in the development of these programs in order to ensure safe communities and a safety-focused workforce."

Eight in 10 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home. Early CPR, combined with early defibrillator can increase survival rates for cardiac arrest victims by up to 75%, according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"We are thrilled with the support of ACT's partners. Without them, this lifesaving program would not be possible," says ACT Foundation Executive Director Sandra Clarke.

To date, the ACT Foundation has set up the ACT High School CPR Program in more than 1,500 schools nation-wide, empowering more than 1.8 million youth to save lives.

To learn about some of ACT's rescue stories, visit www.actfoundation.ca, "like" us on Facebook www.facebook.com/theactfoundation and follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/actfoundation.