



Students can now "ACT" to save lives

Posted Jun 23, 2011 [By Michael J Brethour](#)

EMC Lifestyles – Belleville - The gift of life is contagious.

That was illustrated by last Friday's lengthy announcement at Quinte Secondary School in Belleville that well over 1,500 Grade 9 students from eight high schools in the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board are now empowered to save lives through CPR.

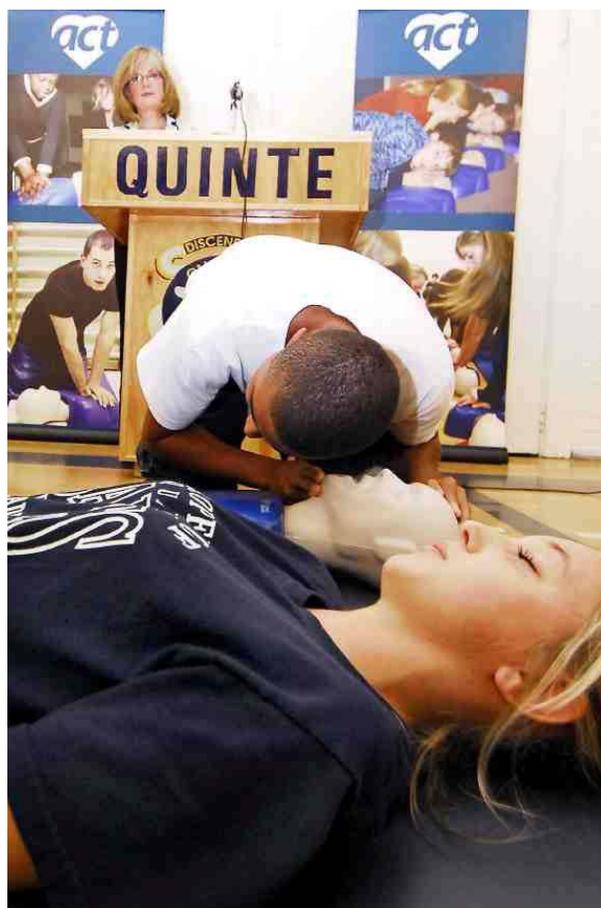
Advanced Coronary Treatment or the ACT Foundation announced the launch of their High School CPR Program for all high schools in the Belleville, Hastings, Prince Edward County, and Quinte West areas.

The program is being launched in partnership with lead community partner TransCanada Corporation and the provincial government along with the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Last Friday's launch completed the program set up in all high schools in the area which includes the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board and the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. As the school year comes to an end, this means that a total of 2,000 youth will be out in the community ready to react and potentially save lives.

As of December 2010, 20 local physical education teachers were trained as CPR instructors at Centennial Secondary School in order to pass that information along to their students. Last Friday's announcement was the result of that effort, 160 mannequins will be donated to schools in Belleville, Bancroft, Madoc, Picton and Trenton to continue that CPR education.

"CPR instruction for Grade nine students gives them lifesaving training they can use in their community," says Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education and MPP for Prince Edward-Hastings. "Our government recognizes and supports the important work of the ACT Foundation to empower students and save lives. As a mother of four, I wanted to make sure



Jayden Jones applies mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a CPR dummy while fellow CPR classmate and Quinte Secondary student Chelsea Pickard lies prone on the floor during a demonstration of the CPR training students receive through the ACT program.

that if something would happen to my family I would be able to do something to help them. That's why I did the CPR training years ago."

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 the Belleville, Hastings, Prince Edward County, and Quinte West areas and to all high schools across Canada include AstraZeneca Canada, Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, Pfizer Canada and sanofi-aventis.

The ACT High School CPR Program is built on ACT's award-winning community-based model of partnerships and support. ACT raises funds for CPR mannequins and teacher training for all high schools and guides schools in program setup.

"The Ontario Trillium Foundation continues to be impressed with the work the ACT Foundation is doing across the province," says Robin Cardozo, CEO of The Ontario Trillium Foundation. "Building healthier and more vibrant communities through our grant making policies is one of our primary goals and I believe the ACT Foundation's CPR program will continue to further this objective."

The launch drew a number of officials and dignitaries. Mayor Neil Ellis spoke briefly and to the point about the day's announcement.

"Like every adult I know CPR, but as adults we are guilty of not refreshing or upgrading," said the mayor. "My wife is a nurse and she religiously tries to get at me to upgrade as they are required through work. When you look at the stats and we are going to have 1,500 new CPR students, it is about three per cent of our population. When you start to multiply that up and out, it is something that will make not only our community but all of Ontario safer."