

High schools to receive defibrillator

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Petrolia Topic Staff

The Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation has launched the ACT High School CPR and Defibrillator Program for all high schools in Sarnia-Lambton (including Petrolia's LCCVI) and Chatham-Kent.

The program was launched Nov. 18 in partnership with local community partners and provincial partners, including the provincial government, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Hydro One.

The program will see more than 2,800 Grade 9 students from 16 high schools in the Lambton Kent District School Board and the St. Clair Catholic District School board empowered to save lives every year. Forty-two physical education teachers have been trained as CPR and defibrillator instructors for their students. Five hundred training mannequins, 65 defibrillator training units and 15 defibrillators will be donated to schools.

Jim Costello, director of education for the Lambton Kent District School Board, said "This initiative is one more example of how staff and students can give back to their communities. One never knows when they may be called upon to put these lifesaving skills into action."

Paul Wubben, director of education with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, said "The life-saving equipment and training are tremendous supports that help ensure the safety of our students, staff and visitors to our school buildings."

The ACT Foundation is a national charitable organization dedicated to establishing CPR as a mandatory program in every Canadian high school. To date, the ACT Foundation has set up the ACT High School CPR Program in more than 1,600 high schools nation-wide, empowering more than 1.8 million youth to save lives.

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

Many local community partners have been critical to the success of the program in Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent.