

# Grade 9 students getting CPR, defibrillator training

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Students from Centre Wellington DHS are among those being trained in CPR and to use an automatic external defibrillator.

The Advanced Coronary Treatment (or ACT) Foundation launched the high school training program last week, in partnership with groups in the community and province, including the provincial government, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Hydro One.

More than 1,700 Grade 9 students from seven high schools in the Upper Grand District School Board and the Wellington Catholic District School Board will be trained through the program. Twenty-five physical education teachers have been trained as CPR and defibrillator instructors for their students, and 210 mannequins and 28 defibrillator training units will be donated to schools.

The official program kickoff was held at Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute, and Guelph MPP Liz Sandals said the province is pleased to support the training. "This is a valuable learning opportunity for students – young people who are trained and ready to act could save a life," she said.

Upper Grand education director Martha Rogers said the board is "thrilled that our teachers and students will have the chance to participate in CPR and defibrillator training, and are thankful for the donations and partnerships that have made it possible."

"Empowering young people to help save lives adds value to their educational experiences and will serve them and our communities well into the future," she said.

The ACT Foundation is a national charitable organization dedicated to establishing CPR as a mandatory program in every Canadian high school.

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 training mannequins and defibrillator training units for all high schools and guides schools in program set-up.

"We took the initiative to house defibrillators in each of our high schools in 2010," said Catholic school board education director Don Drone. "This community based program will provide additional support of the use of these devices."

Funding for the program in Guelph and Wellington and Dufferin Counties comes from Amaranth Lions Club, Fergus-Elora Rotary Foundation, Orangeville Lions Club, Rotary Club of Guelph South, Rotary Club of Shelburne, and Shelburne Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs.