

THE BARRIE EXAMINER

AEDs coming to more schools

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With more than 6,500 Ontarians dying of cardiac arrest each year, the province is investing in defibrillators and specialized training in high schools as part of a \$1.4-million initiative to save lives.

And local educators are hopeful it will happen soon.

"As a board, we have been exploring the use of defibrillators in our schools and facilities, but concerns about sustainable funding and training to support this have been identified as concerns," said Diane Legg, director of communications and public affairs for the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. "So, we are hopeful that this new announcement will mean that boards will receive sufficient funding to make this an option for our school communities."

Through the province's initiative, The Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation will train high school teachers how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The teachers will then pass their training on to their students, allowing them to recognize and offer help at the scene of a cardiac arrest.

AEDs are portable electric devices, about the size of a laptop, that administer a shock to victims of cardiac arrest to bring back their heartbeat.

Teachers at the Simcoe County District School Board received defibrillator training through the county's paramedic services.