

-Timmins-

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## Learning to save lives

**By Heather Spadafore**  
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Jeff Scott knows that CPR can save a life.

The Grade 11 Timmins High and Vocational School (TH&VS) student has taken the course before and recognizes how important it is to receive the training. And that's why he thinks teaching CPR in high school is a great idea.

"It should be done in schools," he said. "The more people learn about CPR, the better it will help in an emergency situation."

He was part of a group of students demonstrating the technique at TH&VS Monday after the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation of Canada announced a new CPR program would be launched in local high schools. For the first time in the North, the program will be offered at TH&VS, Ecole secondaire Theriault, Ecole publique Renaissance, O'Gorman High School and Roland Michener Secondary School.

"This really is a life skill," Michelle Willer, Ontario project manager for ACT, said.

Each year, Willer said about 700 Grade 9 students from all five high schools will be trained in CPR. The Ontario government committed half of the funds, with ACT raising the rest. Willer said they could not have brought the program to Timmins if not for local sponsors the Kinette Club of Timmins and Shoppers Drug Mart. The Kinettes donated 120 mannequins to the schools, and Shoppers Drug Mart sponsored the printing of classroom materials. District School Board Ontario North East spokesperson Steve Pladzyk said all the school boards are excited to be part of the program.

"Students will learn about responsibility and their self-esteem will increase," Pladzyk said. "It means we will have more lifesavers walking the hallways."

Willer said high school teachers will be trained to teach students CPR, and the program will be part of the curriculum.

"All local students will have received the training by the time they graduate," she said.

The Timmins ACT program all started with a phone call from Dr. Chris Loreto. It was after realizing how low knowledge of CPR was that Loreto decided to act.

"We wanted to start making CPR part of the school curriculum," he said. "But it couldn't have been done without the school boards. They jumped on board immediately." Beginning this Thursday and Friday, high school teachers will receive free CPR training from Loreto and other health-care professionals at the Timmins and District Hospital, and the program will be implemented in the schools in September.