

## **Catholic board considers EpiPens and defibrillators**

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

*By Carol Martin*

Huron Superior Catholic District School Board is considering a proposal to equip all its facilities with adrenaline auto-injectors and defibrillators.

Trustee Grace Tridico brought the idea to a board meeting last night.

"After learning about a grant from the province to put defibrillators in City facilities, I decided to do some research and see if it could be done in our facilities," Tridico said. "I discovered that several boards across the province had done this."

Tridico said she'd become aware of a group called the ACT Foundation that trains Huron-Superior Grade 9 teachers in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) so they can teach it to their students.

The group is also looking at bringing in training mannequins and defibrillators to expand the training offered the local teachers.

"I would also like to see this life-saving training incorporated in the Grade 9 curriculum," Tridico said.

"Automated external defibrillators (AED) are devices used to treat sudden cardiac arrest in persons of all ages," Tridico said in her report to the board. "EpiPens are devices used to treat individuals with severe life-threatening allergic reactions."

Increasing numbers of people are being diagnosed with life-threatening allergies at all ages and having EpiPens in board facilities could save the life of someone who may have an undiagnosed allergy, Tridico said.

The board directed Director of Education John Stadnyk to investigate the feasibility of introducing EpiPens and defibrillators to all the board's facilities and report back to trustees for further discussion.

Those reports should be returned to the board sometime in the early fall.