

Local teachers get lifesaving lesson

By Jennifer Moreau, Burnaby Now
July 14, 2010



Elizabeth Bentley and Gary Leung learn from Troy Gienger of the B.C. Ambulance Paramedics Local 873. They were all in training at Burnaby North Secondary School.

Photograph by: Larry Wright, BURNABY NOW

Local teachers are taking CPR lessons so they can teach their students how to save lives.

On June 21, 34 Burnaby teachers from around the district spent the day learning CPR as part of an Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation program. The foundation partnered with the B.C. Ambulance Service and the provincewide paramedics' union to bring the program to schools across the province.

B.J. Chute is the paramedics' union spokesperson and a volunteer instructor with the program.

"First we brush them up on their CPR skills ... then we run them through scenarios so they can both practise their CPR skills and teach the skills ultimately to their students," he said.



SFU student teacher Gareth Tilt and Liana Greiner get some hands-on practice with CPR.

Photograph by: Larry Wright, BURNABY NOW

The training means teachers can deal with emergencies like choking, severe allergic reactions and heart attacks. The program is tremendously helpful for the students, Chute added.

"It gives students lifesaving skills they will have with them for the rest of their lives," he said. "We know, as paramedics, the earlier CPR is performed, the better that patient's chance of survival is."

Having the Burnaby teachers trained means they can pass the knowledge on to 1,700 local students. The CPR training is aimed at Grade 10 physical education classes. In all, the foundation expects 50,000 B.C. youth will be trained in CPR each year through the program.

Pharmaceutical companies fund the foundation, and the instructors volunteered their time to lead the workshop.

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