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MP Scott Reid partners in training students to save lives

Written by Lake 88 News Staff

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More than 1,200 students in Eastern Ontario, among them students at the six high schools in Smiths Falls, Perth and Carleton Place, will receive training in use of potentially life-saving defibrillators.

It involves a partnership of the Ontario government, the ACT Foundation and MP Scott Reid, who's contributing \$40,000 to help supply automated external defibrillators to high schools in his riding.

Students will be trained in use of AEDs that can tell when a heart stops and delivers an electric charge to help it restart. Reid says the program began with CPR training and will provide students with valuable life-saving skills.

"I can't think of a more important skill to be teaching our children," he said. "There's a whole bunch of reasons why students are the right ones to train. They have much better retention on this stuff than us older folks do and they're willing to learn and enthusiastic," Reid added.

"And as time goes on we now have an entire generation all the way from their teens up to about their mid-20s and growing all the time," he said.

Schools in the Upper Canada District School Board and Catholic School Board of Eastern Ontario systems are involved in the defibrillator program.