

COMMUNITY NEWS

High schools receive new defibrillators, training

BY DESMOND DEVOY

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More than 1,200 high school students throughout Lanark County will soon be trained on how to use a defibrillator, and possibly save a life.

Working in partnership with the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation, the Ontario government and with \$40,000 from Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington MP Scott Reid, high school students in Carleton Place, Perth and Smiths Falls will be trained in the use of automated external defibrillators.

"Hopefully, we won't need to use the defibrillator in our school, touch wood. But, if we do, we'll be trained for it," said Dave Chaplin, the principal of Notre Dame Catholic High School in Carleton Place, one of the schools participating in the program. While the devices will be located in high schools, "it's not just about saving kids' lives. It could be about saving an adult's life as well," said Chaplin.

Fellow educator Jamie Bell, a physical education teacher at

Carleton Place High School (CPHS), agreed, noting that the training will mean that, "they [students] are ready to step in and save someone's life."

The program was launched during a ceremony in the CPHS gymnasium on May 18.

"Part of our goal in doing this is in making Lanark County a model for the rest of the province," said Reid. "If we can do it here, you can do it in your area."

Sandra Clarke, executive director of the ACT Foundation, reminded the audience that, when someone is having a heart attack, time is of the essence.

"You can have the best paramedics system in the world. But they can't be there when the event happens," Clarke said. "Those first few moments are critical, when a family member has an incident." Usually we try to be there as soon as we can," said Ed McPherson, deputy chief of the Lanark County Ambulance Service. But, in a rural area like Lanark County, that is not always possible. "You're helping us do our jobs...it certainly makes my job easier."

For Clarke, the drive to make sure that every high school student in Ontario graduates having learned how to use a defibrillator, and has basic CPR skills, is a personal mission. She lost both her father and her father-in-law to heart attacks.

"I've committed my life to this," said Clarke. Even with the best of training, it doesn't always work. But even in those instances, "you won't have to have all of those 'what ifs.'"

"Welcome to Lanark County, a great place to have a heart attack," said Carleton Place Mayor Paul Dulmage, who added that, as he enters middle age it is, "comforting" to know that such devices are available, and that people are being trained to use them.

The schools which will be teaching the program include Notre Dame Catholic High School, Carleton Place, St. John Catholic High School, Perth, St. Luke Catholic High School, Smiths Falls, Carleton Place High School, Perth and District Collegiate Institute, and the Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute.



A SHINING EXAMPLE

Jeweler Steve Clark carefully adjusts some of his creations during the Brooke Valley Spring Tour, which was held over the Victoria Day long weekend.

Melissa Di Costanzo photo

St. John build day set for Saturday

BY ROSANNE LAKE

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On Saturday, the yard at St. John Catholic Elementary School will be buzzing with worker bees. The efforts to raise funds and build a new playground for students at the school, and the community, will reach their peak May 29, when hundreds of people gather on site to give the school yard a complete makeover - in one day.

From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. community volunteers will pull together to build the new playground and outdoor learning area. After the build is complete, there will be a dedication ceremony to recognize two local fallen Canadian Forces heroes, Flying Officer William Kyle and Cpl. James Michael McGlade, and one local veteran from Perth, Cpl. Francis DiCola.

The initiative started last fall with a simple idea, and snowballed with a grant from Let Them

Be Kids Canada, a foundation designed to help communities build partnerships and volunteerism through projects like community playgrounds. Local businesses and individuals then stepped up over the past few months, donating more than \$50,000 towards the project.

"Our committee is really excited that this day is finally so close," said Diane Jackson, chair of the playground committee. "It (has) been a tremendous amount of work and planning but all along we've known the looks on these kids' faces every day would be worth all of it and that it truly is important to just let kids be kids."

Jackson went on to say that the committee and school wishes to express gratitude to the community for being supportive of the project, both financially and personally.

Now, in just a few days, the school yard will be transformed

with the addition of three play structures, soccer nets, an outdoor classroom with prayer corner and storytelling area, local gardens and mural paintings.

"Our young students are thrilled, as they helped design the play equipment and have been involved every step of the way," said kindergarten teacher and committee member, Melanie O'Neil. "Recess will never be the same here at St. John's!"

Volunteers are still being encouraged to sign up via the website www.stjohnperth.ltbk.ca.

"Above all, this day is meant to draw our community together," said Jackson. "We all feel that this project will show children and adults alike, that within us all is the ability to make a difference and hopefully someday, when they see a need out there, they'll recall this time and realize that they can do something to help someone else, no matter how daunting it seems."



TURNING HEADS DURING TOUR

Smiths Falls wood-turner Don Crowder, displays some of his creations (including candlesticks and bowls) during the annual Westport Area Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour, which was held over the Victoria Day long weekend.

Melissa Di Costanzo photo

POLICE BRIEFS

Illegal hunting fines

Shooting a deer on private property landed a Lanark Highlands man with fines and a year suspension from hunting.

A man from Lanark was fined \$1,000 for careless hunting, \$1,000 for discharging a firearm from a road right-of-way and \$200 for trespassing while hunting. He was also suspended from hunting for one year.

The Ministry of Natural Resources said the man was on his way home in Lanark when he saw a large deer by the road on private property. A resident told him he couldn't hunt on the property but the man shot the deer anyways. He was confronted by several residents who were able to identify him during an investigation by the OPP and MNR.

To report a hunting violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Gore Street crash

An Ottawa woman was charged after her car crashed into a vehicle at the corner of Harvey and Gore streets on Thursday, May 20 just before 8 p.m.

Perth police said the Ottawa driver was heading west on Harvey when she stopped at the stop sign at Gore Street before proceeding. The car collided with a car driven by a 23-year-old Maberly woman who was driving north on Gore Street East. The impact tore off part of the front fender on the Maberly woman's car. No injuries were reported.

A 40-year-old woman was charged with failing to yield to traffic on a through highway.

Victoria Day weekend revelers arrested

Two men were held in police custody until sober during separate incidents over the weekend.

Perth police said a 20-year-old Lombardy man was charged with being intoxicated in a public place on Friday, May 21 after receiving calls of a drunk man falling down on the front lawn of a Harvey Street residence around 9:45 p.m.

On Saturday, May 22, officers encountered an intoxicated man at the corner of Gore and North streets and offered to escort him to a safe place.

The man put his hands behind his back and suggested police arrest him, Perth police said. Consequently, he was arrested, charged with being intoxicated in a public place and held in a cell until he was sober.

Last week, Perth police also arrested an intoxicated man at a County Road 43 establishment on May 16 at around 1:45 a.m.

A 49-year-old Maberly man was charged with being intoxicated in a public place and held until sober.

Impaired drivers

Perth police charged a 29-year-old Ottawa man with impaired driving after following up on reports of an erratic driver on Harvey Street at around 7:45 p.m. on Sunday.

The driver was stopped on Isabella Street and was immediately given a roadside breath test, which he failed.

The accused faces charges for driving while impaired, driving with a blood-alcohol level higher than 80 milligrams and possession of marijuana.

A 33-year-old Smiths Falls man was also charged with impaired driving and over 80 after Perth police conducted a traffic stop on Craig Street on May 15.

OPP laid impaired driving charges on a Perth man on May 8. Police saw a vehicle travelling erratically east on County Road 12 in Tay Valley Township at around 11:30 p.m. The vehicle turned onto Fallbrook Road, where it was stopped by police.

The 49-year-old driver was charged with impaired driving and over 80, as well as driving without a licence.

Impaired driving leads to assault

A Tay Valley Township man faces assault charges in addition to drunk-driving charges after a May 5 incident.

OPP said a truck crashed into the ditch on McDonalds Corners Road at around 5:30 p.m. The driver got out of the truck and raised a rock in the air at a witness before running into the bush. There was no physical contact between the accused and the witness, OPP said.

Witnesses told officers that the driver was outside a nearby residence, where the 57-year-old man was arrested and charged with assault, impaired driving and failing to provide a breath sample.

Smashed windows

A 14-year-old Perth youth faces several charges after a Sinclair Street home window was smashed. The incident happened on Sunday at around 8:30 p.m.

The teen was charged with possessing a weapon for a dangerous purpose, possessing a weapon while prohibited to do so, two counts of mischief and breaching a probation order. He is expected to attend youth court on June 30.

More windows were broken in an unrelated incident last week.

The front windshield of a parked pickup truck on Craig Street were smashed in by pieces of wood. Police were called to the scene on Saturday, May 15 at around 3:30 p.m.

Police arrested an 18-year-old Perth man on Sunday, May 17. He is charged with two counts of mischief under \$5,000. He was released from police custody on a promise to appear in court on June 21.



The YellowBox comes to Perth!

The YellowBox - The next step!

Starting June 1st, the Town of Perth's curbside recycling system is switching to a simple, alternate week Container/Fibre program. You will put out all your containers in the new YellowBox one week, and all your fibres in your existing BlueBox the other week.

NEW Materials

You can now put out drink and soup boxes, gable-end milk and juice cartons and all wide-mouth plastic dairy containers (yogurt, margarine, ice cream etc.) in your new YellowBox, together with other containers.



Your YellowBox will be delivered to your door the week of May 17th

The BlueBox will still take the paper & fibre items such newspapers, cardboard, and boxboard.

Zones and collection days are changing - check the calendar that comes with your new YellowBox!



Congratulations Perth for getting into your GreenBins! The GreenBin program is currently diverting 300 tonnes a year from the landfill, turning it into valuable compost. Keep up the good work!

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.

www.perth.ca or 613 267-3311