

## Teachers taught life-saving skills

By **Martin van den Hemel** - Richmond Review

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Paramedic Troy Gienger demonstrates proper CPR life-saving techniques to McNair teacher Robert Young, right, and Stephen Platzer, centre, as well as dozens of other teachers at R.C. Palmer Secondary on Thursday morning. The group were participating in an Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation program aimed at teaching 1,500 Grade 10 students annually in how to use cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

*Martin van den Hemel photo*

Nearly three dozen Richmond teachers gathered at R.C. Palmer Secondary on Thursday morning to learn some life-saving skills.

Matthew McNair teachers Robert Young and Stephen Platzer were among the 33 who participated in the Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation's high school CPR program.

The program's aim is to empower these teachers to train students about CPR.

The foundation received funding from AstraZeneca Canada, Pfizer Canada and sanofi-aventis to provide Richmond some 285 CPR mannequins as well as curriculum materials that will be used in local schools to teach Grade 10 students about cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"For some students, this training might one day make the difference between tragedy and saving a life," said sanofi-aventis president Hugh O'Neill.

In the training session held inside Palmer's gymnasium, B.C. Ambulance Service paramedics Troy Gienger, BJ Chut and Nick Smith volunteered their time to show the CPR students the ropes.

Foundation executive director Sandra Clarke said students learn about risk factors for heart disease and how important it is to adopt a heart healthy lifestyle.

"They will then bring their health promotion message and lifesaving skills to their present and future families," Clarke said.