



## Local high schools to get defibrillators, student training

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BY EMC NEWS

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EMC News - The two high schools in Smiths Falls will be among those institutions across the region to receive an automated external defibrillator (AED) as well as training as a result of a unique partnership between the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation, local MP Scott Reid, and the Government of Ontario.

The announcement, that all high schools in the federal riding of Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox & Addington would get a defibrillator, was made Tuesday, May 18 at Carleton Place High School. In addition, it was noted more than 1,200 high school students will be trained each year on the use of an AED.

Reid, the Member of Parliament for Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox & Addington, has donated \$40,000 (70 per cent of the funding needed) to ensure all high schools in the riding have an AED on site. All students in his riding receive the lifesaving AED training through the ACT High School AED Program.

An AED is an easy-to-use device that can tell when a heart stops beating effectively and deliver an electric shock to help it restart. This generous donation will provide an AED for nine high schools, adding to the one that already had an AED. This funding will also provide AED training units and mannequins to set up the Grade 9 student training program in all 10 high schools in the riding, including schools from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, Limestone District School Board, and Upper Canada District School Board.

"I am excited to be a part of this program. First we started by providing CPR training to our high school students and now we are adding AED training. This training is providing our youth with the skills to save lives," said Reid. "I cannot think of a more important skill to be teaching our children."

This program will be an enhancement to the CPR Program the ACT Foundation established in high schools with Reid's support in 2003. Also contributing is the Government of Ontario, which in 2008, invested \$1.4 million as seed funding to help the ACT Foundation expand the AED training program to all Ontario high schools.

ACT's health partners, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, Pfizer Canada and sanofi-aventis, provide sustaining funding for the ACT Foundation and are committed to ACT's efforts to establish the CPR and AED program in these schools, throughout Ontario and across Canada.

Research shows that citizen CPR, combined with the use of an AED, can considerably improve survival rates if applied in the first few minutes of a cardiac arrest.

"Easy-to-use defibrillators are appearing in many public places," says Dr. Justin Maloney, an emergency physician and Medical Director for the ACT Foundation. "The schools already teach young people to act, to start CPR. Now we want them to grab the defibrillator on the wall and use that too. These schools are teaching life skills that save lives."

"We want to thank Scott Reid for his support as lead community partner in bringing the AED program to his area high schools. His leadership combined with the Government of Ontario is making this program a reality," says Sandra Clarke, Executive Director of the ACT Foundation. "It is because of ACT's committed partners at the community, provincial and national level that we have achieved this incredible success."

Saving people Touching lives: [www.actfoundation.ca](http://www.actfoundation.ca)

High schools involved:

Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

- Notre Dame Catholic High School (Carleton Place) - 98 Grade 9 students
- St John Catholic High School (Perth) - 189 Grade 9 students
- St Luke Catholic High School (Smiths Falls) - 21 Grade 9 students

Upper Canada District School Board

- Carleton Place High School (Carleton Place) - 201 Grade 9 students
- Perth and District Collegiate Institute (Perth) - 175 Grade 9 students
- Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute (Smiths Falls) - 160 Grade 9 students

The ACT Foundation is a national, award-winning charitable organization driving a campaign to establish CPR training in all high schools across Canada.

ACT raises funds to donate mannequins, teacher training, manuals and other materials to schools. ACT also guides schools in program set-up to ensure long-term sustainability of the program. Teachers then train their students as a regular part of the curriculum. More than 1,400,000 youth have been trained in CPR across Canada to date through the ACT High School CPR Program. ACT is currently enhancing the CPR program in Ontario with Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training and AEDs for schools.