



Service clubs fund CPR training at Paris District High School



By Michael Peeling, The Paris Star
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Local service clubs have made it possible for Paris high school students to learn CPR and how to use a defibrillator working with a national foundation.

On Monday, members of the Paris and Burford Optimist Clubs and the Paris Lions Club gathered at Paris District High School to present the faculty and students with donated funds to purchased training equipment such as dummies and training defibrillators through the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation.

ACT is a national charitable organization dedicated to establishing free CPR as a mandatory program in every Canadian high school by building community-based partnerships and support for mannequins and resources.

PDHS Principal Shayne Mann said this is the second round of funding for the school's CPR equipment and training through the service clubs and ACT Foundation.

Mann, recalling a tragic situation at PDHS approximately 15 years ago when he taught at the school, said the equipment and training is very much needed.

"There was an instance when a staff member had a heart attack," he said. "The school really could have used CPR equipment then."

Consequently, the staff member passed away.

Mann said the presence of AEDs (automated external defibrillators) and staff and students trained to use it in the school is more than welcome, and CPR training will continue to be available at PDHS through the physical education curriculum.

"If they are ever needed, they are there," Mann said.

He also pointed out that the CPR equipment is available to the many community groups who often use space at the school for events and meetings.

Marilyn McCulloch of the Paris Optimist Club was pleased to be collaborating with the Burford group and Paris Lions on the program.

"It is great when community groups work together to make good things happen," she said. "Since students from Paris, Burford and St. George attend PDHS, it makes sense for funding to come from each of the communities. With this program in place, over 200 students at PDHS each year will be empowered to save lives."

McCulloch said the total, one-time cost for the program for one school is \$2,200 plus \$1,500 from the Ontario government.

Check out www.actfoundation.ca for more information about the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation.

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