

Saving lives: Local schools receive CPR mannequins

By: Heidi Ulrichsen - Sudbury Northern Life | Oct 23, 2015 - 6:00 PM |  4



Abbey Patterson (left) and Kiera Lebreton — both Grade 9 students at Lasalle Secondary School — practice their life-saving skills Oct. 23. Photo by Heidi Ulrichsen.

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High-schoolers across country have put skills to work

About 15 years ago, Glenn Thibeault was walking in Bell Park with a friend, when they stumbled upon a man who had collapsed on the ground.

Thibeault — now the MPP for Sudbury — and his friend did CPR until the paramedics arrived. The victim survived.

The politician shared the story Oct. 23 with a group of Grade 9 Lasalle Secondary School students who have been learning life-saving skills such as CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

“Even though I had lots of CPR training from the career path that I had chosen at that time, you panic a little bit,” Thibeault said.

The equipment the students were using was purchased thanks to the [Advanced Coronary Treatment \(ACT\) Foundation](#), which has donated CPR mannequins and defibrillators to all 26 high schools in the region.

During the Friday event at Lasalle, the donation of another 150 mannequins was announced. The \$100 mannequins were purchased thanks to donations from Vale, the Ontario government, the Trillium Foundation, Hydro One, AstraZeneca Canada Pfizer Canada and Sanofi Canada.

“Thanks to ACT and all of our partners here today — government and corporate —

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we are allowing students such as these here today to seek life-saving skills they will carry with them for years to come,” said Vale spokesperson Angie Robson.

Grade 9 students learn life-saving skills as part of the provincial curriculum.

Lasalle sports program leader Dennis Gauthier said the new mannequins are very much appreciated, as the ones the school received when the curriculum was implemented about 10 years ago are worn out.

As for teaching students life-saving skills, the teacher said he thinks it's crucial.

“I've used it in my life, and I know other people have used it,” he said. “I think it's absolutely important that all kids have this, because you just never know when you're going to use it.”

Abbey Patterson, a Grade 9 Lasalle student, said she thinks the training is very helpful. “You never know what's going to happen, so it's good to be prepared,” she said.

Jennifer Edwards, operations manager with the ACT Foundation — a national organization promoting life-saving — said she's heard many stories about students who have used their training to make a difference.

Students have done everything from saving someone from choking, to performing CPR, to recognizing the signs of cardiac distress.

“It's extremely important,” she said. “Eight out of 10 cardiac arrests happen outside of the hospital, and according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, bystander CPR combined with early defibrillation can increase survival rates by up to 75 per cent.

“So having somebody there who witnesses someone collapse, they know what to do, and to call 911, and to activate that chain of survival early makes it a better outcome for the patient.”