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## Sudbury Students Learning Life-Saving Skills

Posted on June 7, 2013 by [Angela Gemmill](#)



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All 26 high schools across Greater Sudbury are now equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and Grade Nine students now know how to use them. They also know how to administer CPR.

The Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation and its partners helped put 80 Automated External Defibrillator units and training mannequins into the local schools.

A total of three-thousand youth every year will now learn the life-saving skills.

ACT Operations Manager, Jennifer Boissonneault, says Grade Nine students were chosen because that is the last year they have mandatory physical education classes, which is when CPR is part of the curriculum.

She says using an AED is simple, the machine walks users through the steps: call 9-1-1, check for responsiveness, apply the pads to the victim, and then the machine will only apply a shock if one is needed.

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School Physical Education Teacher, Jamie Bouchard, says it's important for students performing CPR or using a defibrillator to stay calm during an emergency situation.

He says its reassuring having AEDs in schools and knowing that so many students know CPR.

Many schools host community partners for non-school events so having AEDs available makes it a safer environment.

Boissonneault says it's because of national, provincial and community sponsors that the ACT Foundation is able to provide the equipment and training to the students.

Vale is lead community sponsor for the ACT High School Defibrillator Training Program in Sudbury.

Statistics show using an AED along with CPR compressions can increase survival rates of a cardiac arrest victim by 75%.

Across Greater Sudbury many municipal facilities and buildings have AEDs available in case cardiac emergencies arise.

The ACT Foundation has set up this same program in over 1,600 schools across Canada and empowered 1.8 million youth to save lives.



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