

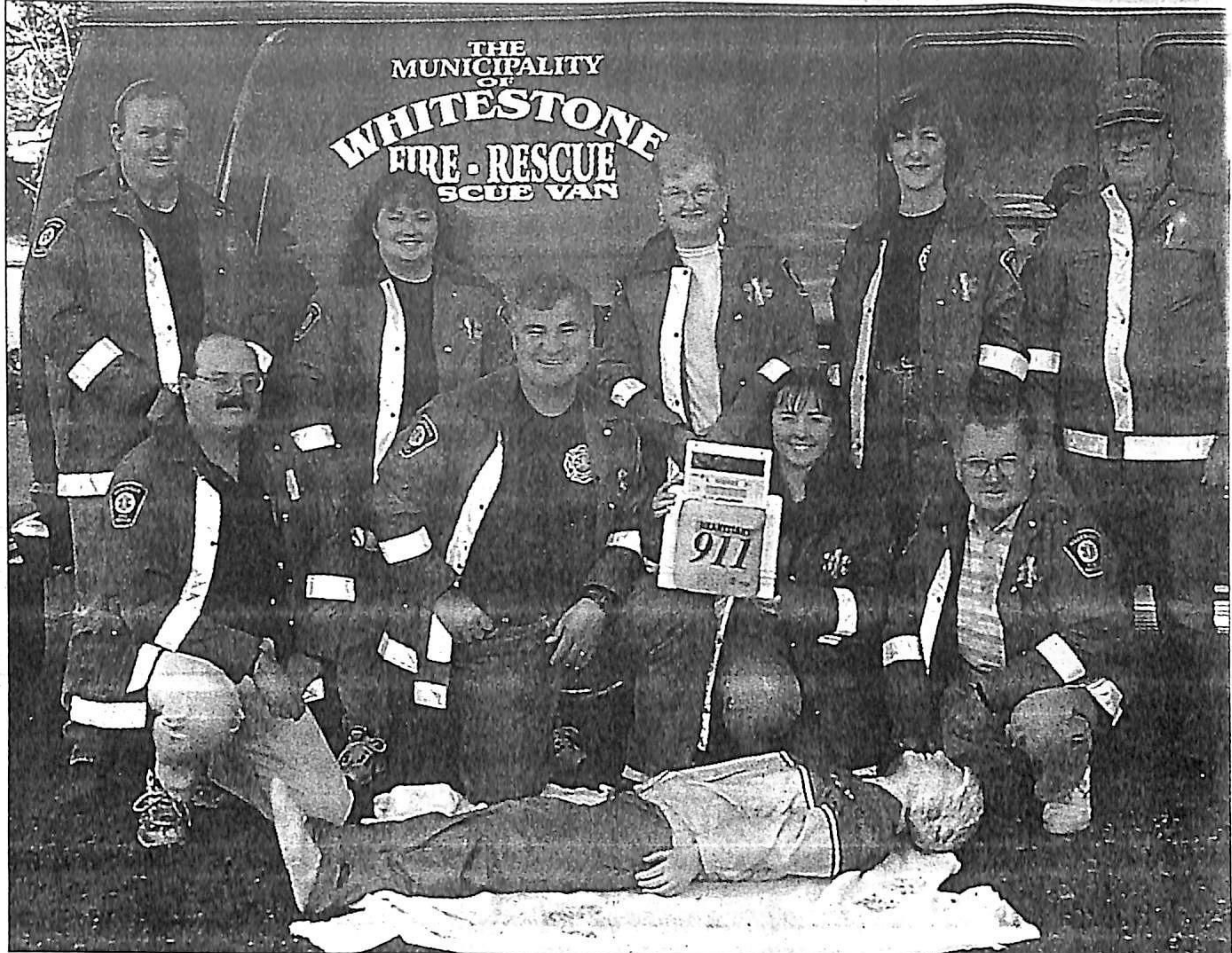
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Shown above, members of the Whitestone Fire Rescue Department certified to use the department's new Automatic External Defibrillator. Back row (left to right): Captain Bob Whitman, Kathy

Whitman, Louise Woods, Janice Bray, Judd Emmett. Front row (left to right): Chris Armstrong, John Stothers, Michelle Stiles, Floyd Woods.

New life-saving equipment for Whitestone Fire Department

WHITESTONE - The Whitestone Fire Rescue Department brought its first Automatic External Defibrillator, or AED, into service last Thursday. The AED is used to restart the hearts of patients whose hearts have stopped beating due to heart attack, drowning or electrocution. The West Parry Sound Health Centre Base Hospital Physician Dr. Stuart Shaw certified ten members of the Department after an extensive training program conducted by the Department's Training Officer, Captain Bob Whitman and the Parry Sound Ambulance Service. Local service clubs, individuals, businesses and the Firefighter's Association helped raise the funds to purchase one AED and the

Municipality of Whitestone funded a second one. The first AED is in service in Station 1, Dunchurch, while the second AED will arrive shortly for Station 2, Ardbeg. So far the AED has been on one medical call, but fortunately it was not needed.

"Having the AED means a major improvement in the service we can offer our citizens," said Captain Whitman. "The fire department arrives on the scene first, and now with the AED there is a much better chance of restarting someone's heart."

"The AED is just one link in the chain for increased chances of survival," said Fire Chief John Stothers, "along with CPR and

bringing in the 9-1-1 service. We need to encourage more of our citizens to learn CPR. The brain can only survive about four minutes without oxygen, so it is vital to do CPR until the fire department arrives."

Don Brisbane, Director of Pre-hospital Emergency Health Services/Ambulance Service congratulated the Whitestone Firefighters for taking the training and the Municipality of Whitestone for supporting the program. "First response teams are an important part of our district's Emergency Medical Service system and we look forward to working even closer with local municipalities and fire departments in the future."