

Fire department wants two defibrillators

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

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Colborne Cramahe Fire Department has a dream: two defibrillators for medical emergency calls.

Dwayne Hartley, President of the Colborne Cramahe Firefighters Association knows exactly how defibrillators could be used. Imagine the Colborne Cramahe Fire Department races to rural residence in response to a medical assist call. Checking a man who has collapsed, vital signs indicate the victim's heart muscle has stopped contracting efficiently. The fire department defibrillates the man. The powerful electrical charge quiet the heart muscle so it can begin to beat normally. When the ambulance arrives, the man is transported to hospital where emergency room staff stabilize the man's condition.

The Colborne Cramahe Fire Department is hoping to bring its department in line with 10 of the 12 fire departments in Northumberland County currently equipped with portable defibrillators.

"We need two defibrillators, one for the Castleton Hall and one for the Colborne Hall," says Mr. Hartley.

Defibrillators have been called one of the most important lifesaving inventions of the 20th century. They administer jolts of electricity to "reset" the heart's natural rhythm.

The type of defibrillator being considered is "idiot proof" says Mr. Hartley. "They are called AED's (automated external defibrillators). The trained firefighter will attach the adhesive electrode pads in their proper position on the patient's chest. The AED analyzes the heart rhythm of the patient and advises the operator, through a voice prompt and LED screen, if a shockable rhythm is detected. The operator pushes a shock button to deliver a shock through the test pads.

"AEDs are simple to use because the interpret the heart's ECG signal and advise the operator what to do," says Mr. Hartley. "Use by people trained in Basic Life Support is possible because AEDs take the vital decision out of the hands of the responder of whether or not to deliver a shock.

"We are responding to an increasing

number of medical assist calls where the fire department is the first unit on site," Mr. Hartley notes. "A large number of these calls involve heart attacks. Presently, until the ambulance arrives, there is little we can do. We apply CPR but that is statistically only 14 per cent effective. Defibrillators are 35 per cent effective."

The cost of the two defibrillators is in the \$15,000 range. A presentation was scheduled to be given to the Colborne Cramahe Fire Board Wednesday, 7 p.m., April 26. The public meeting was expected to have representatives from Colborne Rotary, Colborne Cramahe Optimists both councils, and Colborne Legion.

Statistics show 75,000 Canadian suffer heart attacks annually; 23,000 die, some from lack of immediate attention. Every second counts in a heart attack. Brain damage occurs in the first four to six minutes after a heart attack. For best chances of success, a defibrillator shock must be applied as quickly as possible.

Community in the round for Castleton P.S.

The school is part of the Castleton community. That's why neighbours, friends, families and parents and students with connections to Castleton Public School are being invited to turn out for a special panoramic group photo on May 10.

The photo is a millennium event for the elementary school. The specific afternoon time will be announced shortly. In the meantime, the community is asked to mark their calendars for the special event.

Castleton Public School has a new school sign. Superintendent of Schools Natalie Bohnen approved the bright new sign to replace the former plywood version.

Some 67 of 114 Castleton families

recently completed a parent satisfaction survey for Castleton Public School. Information from the survey was shared at the School Advisory Council meeting April 20. Information is also available on request at the school office to all interested parents.

Grade 3 and 6 provincial testing will take place at Castleton Public School between May 8 and 26.

Classes are simulating the testing situation on a regular basis this month to establish a good level of familiarity with the procedures for both students and staff. In addition, Sue Solomon (Grade 3) and Kim Strong (Grade 6) attended teacher training sessions April 20.

It is especially important students attend school regularly during the three-week assessment period.

Plans are well underway for a schoolwide Science Exhibition at Castleton Public School on May 2. The afternoon and evening event is part of Education Week May 1-5 activities.

The March monthly awards program at Castleton Public School recognizes student achievement.

The following students won a monthly academic improvement award:

Jessica Doner and Shan-

non Lenahan Gr. 1; Serena Fardella and Chris Simpson Gr. 2; Natasha Bonner, Kayla Boricic, Brianna Campbell, Jordan Carr, Michael Ferguson, and Mary Ellen Morris Gr. 3; Jeremy Crawford Gr. 4; Thomasin Element and Tommy Ibbotson Gr. 5; Tyler Martin Gr. 6; Matthew McKinnon Gr. 7; Robin Smith and Justin Tucker Gr. 8.

The following students won citizenship awards:

Mary Powell Gr. 1; Many O'Brien, Jocelyn Grills, Kayla Lansley; Mariah Ritchie, and Emmeryck Yates Gr. 2; Travis Donaldson Gr. 3; Christian McDonald Gr. 4; Tony Meekes and Joshua St. Thomas Gr. 5; Kenny Jones and Shayne Kingsmill Gr. 6; Rebecca Smith Gr. 7; and Rebecca Needle Gr. 8.

The Castleton School Advisory Council is holding a magazine subscription campaign as this year's major fundraising campaign. Children will be requested to ask *only* family members and close friends to renew current subscriptions or subscribe to new magazines.

Every student who participates in the campaign is recognized. The school received one-third of the magazine cost directly.

As of March 31, 200, Castleton Public School volunteers have contributed 972 hours.

- from the April Castleton Public School newsletter