

Defibrillator and training equipment delivered to Acton High School

By: Les Schmidt

The Acton Rotary Club delivered a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and training equipment, to Acton District High School last week. A few years ago, Acton Rotarian Colin Ash read an article about the ACT Foundation, the national charitable organization dedicated to establishing free CPR as a mandatory program in every Canadian high school. Ash approached the Acton Rotary Club, in an effort get local Rotarians behind this project in Acton, and they agreed.

As a retired firefighter with 30 years of experience in the Toronto area, Ash knows the value of CPR, AED's, and proper training in their use. About 15 years ago, Ash's fire station had been called to a high school in response

to a 14 year old that had collapsed on the gym floor. While there was a defibrillator on the truck, there wasn't one at the school and even if there had been, no one at the school was trained to use one. Even with a good response time, there was little that the firefighters could do when they arrived.

Mrs. Shire, a teacher at Acton High School, explained that Phys. Ed. is a required course for all grade nine students. Phys. Ed. teachers have been trained as CPR and AED instructors, and now with this new equipment, they will train every grade nine student in CPR, and in the use of a defibrillator. Within a few years, every student in the school will have had this training as part of their basic life skills.

While having a defibrillator in a high school



Principal Lucy Marion (left), with Acton Rotary Club representative Colin Ash, students: Jaidyn Pond, Briana Chen, Alyssa McKendrick, and Teacher Mrs. Shire with donated defibrillator and training equipment.

can be critical in some rare cases, the real value is outside of the school. When a student encounters a medical emergency in the community, or in

their home, they will have the knowledge, the skills, and the self-confidence to take charge and do what may be necessary to save a life. The ACT Founda-

tion website indicates that over 2 million students have been trained across Canada. The program is available at other high schools in Halton Hills,

and thanks to the Acton Rotary Club, now all of the high schools in Halton Hills will have defibrillators, and students who know how to use them.

LEGION NEWS

By: Sharon Graham P.R.O. ~ Branch 197



A sincere thanks to each of you who made our family fun day such a success. The excitement of the children was great to see from getting balloons from the clown, creating things, getting their faces painted, riding on the lake, skating, eating hot dogs, participating in the games, and the highlight—the piñata. Several parents thanked me for the great day so I thank each of you for making it a success.

Newfie Night is March

25 with a Jiggs dinner and dance at 8 p.m. with Tim Kennedy and the Roadhouse boys. Cut off date for tickets is March 9. Tickets will be available at the door or at the bar for either the dinner and dance or just the dance. Bring your friends for a great toe tapping night.

Check the boards behind the bar for upcoming events. We invite people to join our legion. If you are 18, you are eligible to join. Pick up an application at the bar or

at legion.ca under membership section.

Please do not forget to wear red on Fridays. It is very important that we support our troops. If you wear red on Fridays, your name will be entered for a draw and you will have a chance to win a prize. We need to let our troops know that we care and support them all over.

If you have nothing to do on a Thursday afternoon, why not come to the branch and play euchre? Our lady's auxiliary host the euchre every Thursday afternoon. It starts at 1:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome. If you are not sure how to play euchre, they can show you.

MPP REPORT

By: Ted Arnott ~ MPP Wellington - Halton Hills



With the Ontario Legislature sitting again, Members of Provincial Parliament are returning to Queen's Park in Toronto to continue debating Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberal Government agenda.

And there is much to debate.

In recent months, the Liberals have been overwhelmed by historically low approval ratings and by-election losses in seats that had once been their strongholds. They are now more focused on political survival than any other strategic imperative.

Skyrocketing electricity bills continue to be the number one issue in Ontario. Many families and seniors are saying they can't afford to pay their

hydro bills, and businesses tell us high hydro costs make us uncompetitive and cost us jobs. Voters understand the upward pressure on hydro bills has been caused by the deliberate policy decisions of the McGuinty and Wynne Liberal Governments over a period of many years. We need to hold them accountable, even if they now claim to be contrite.

Health care is also a top concern, since the Government has been publicly feuding with Ontario's doctors. Instead, we should be demonstrating our appreciation and respect for all health care providers, identifying ways to reduce overlapping and unnecessary administration, and plow those savings back into front line care.

In the spring session, I plan to continue to seek opportunities to remind the Government of some of our infrastructure needs. Working together with local partners, we have made progress towards a new Groves Memorial Community Hospital, a new university campus in Halton, the Highway 6 Morriston bypass, and a new Halton Courthouse. We also need support for the Town of Halton Hills Highway 7 Truck Strategy,

and improved, affordable high-speed Internet in rural areas.

As Critic to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, I will be monitoring the Minister's public activities and statements, calling attention to their flaws and drawbacks, and seeking to propose better solutions.

The Liberals' cap-and-trade scheme has increased the cost of essentials like gasoline and natural gas, has been criticized by the Auditor General and the Financial Accountability Officer, and is subject to political lobbying and manipulation.

We believe a better way to confront the challenge of climate change would be revenue-neutral carbon emission pricing. British Columbia has done it. All of the revenue collected could and should be returned to Ontario residents and businesses through corresponding tax cuts.

And as always, I welcome your thoughts and advice.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomes your comments. He can be reached at 1-800-265-2366. His website address is www.tedarnottmpp.com or check him out on Facebook.

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