

# Mikey on the road in Nassagaweya

## Heathwood Homes puts heart defibrillators in police cruisers

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Halton Regional Police officers in Nassagaweya now carry a battery-operated device in their cruisers that could help them save lives. The device, known as a defibrillator, can assist people suffering sudden cardiac arrest, prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

Constable J. P. Filippetto, one of two community officers in the area, sees obvious benefits to having a defibrillator with him on the road. Constable Filippetto, who received four hours' training on how to use the defibrillator, says it's possible in remoter areas that officers may play a critical role in keeping people alive before they receive professional medical treatment. "There is a good chance we can get there (before an ambulance can)."

As part of a pilot project launched in Nassagaweya this month, Halton Region supplied two defibrillators to community officers. The defibrillators were donated to the region by the Mikey Network, a non-profit organization established by The Heron Group and Heathwood Homes that works to place defibrillators in as many places as possible.

Hugh Heron, the president of Heathwood Homes, says he and others at his company decided two years ago that they wanted to help out cardiac victims. For Mr. Heron and others at his

company, the decision was an emotional one. Mike Salem, a former vice-president of sales for Heathwood, died of a heart attack while playing golf in June of 2002. He was only in his 50s. "He was a good friend, but also a partner. We decided to do something to honour Mike's memory. We have placed or are in the process of placing 100 defibrillators throughout the GTA."

Blake Hurst, the region's public access defibrillation and CPR coordinator, says the "devices are easy to use." The defibrillators, which use lithium manganese batteries, are designed to "do all the decision making," says Mr.

### THE "DEVICES ARE EASY TO USE"

Hurst. "It will only shock people whose hearts need to be shocked."

Mr. Hurst says the pilot project is only the beginning and that the region intends to expand its efforts to place defibrillators in the community through Halton's public access defibrillation (PAD) program.

The goal of the PAD program is to benefit people who suffer a cardiac arrest at home or outside public places, two areas where the region says many emergencies occur. According to a news release issued by the region, approximately 80 per cent of cardiac arrests take place in residential settings. However, in recent years much of the focus has been on placing defibrillators at public buildings such as arenas, pools, shopping malls and workplaces.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Heathwood Homes, a residential developer in the GTA, recently donated two defibrillators to Halton Region through a non-profit organization the company established known as the Mikey Network. The small, square-shaped devices, which deliver a shock to victims of sudden cardiac arrest, have been placed in two police cruisers used in Nassagaweya as part of a pilot project in the Milton area. According to the Region, deploying defibrillators in police cars can improve survival rates by more than 50 per cent if the device is applied within the first five minutes. Hugh Heron, president of Heathwood Homes, sits in a police cruiser holding one of the defibrillators donated by the Mikey Network. To his left is Halton Regional Police Chief Ean Algar. Mr. Algar is joined by Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline and Const. J. P. Filippetto, a community officer in Nassagaweya who works for Halton Regional Police.

# NASSAGAWEYA ANIMAL HOSPITAL










## Open Now!

### Come Help us Celebrate Grand Opening

Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2 pm - 4 pm

Cake & Refreshments

## About Our Services

-  Thorough physical exams
-  Individually tailored preventative health care
-  Puppy and Kitten programs
-  Comprehensive medical and surgical services
-  Orthopaedic surgery
-  Dentistry and dental surgery
-  Digital radiography
-  In-house laboratory services
-  All breed grooming

Nassagaweya Animal Hospital is dedicated to providing your pets with the same care that we would want for our own pets.



35 Crawford Crescent

P.O. Box 228 Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0

Phone: 905-854-PETS (7387) Fax: 905-854-5760