



Public Access Defibrillation Saves a Life

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On September 2, 2015, the quick action of off duty Paramedic Theresa Peltier, together with Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service; Officers Carrie Spry, Jewel Peltier, Dianne Trudeau and Darryl Mandamin saved the life of a 36 year old Wikwemikong community member, who collapsed while playing baseball. Paramedic Theresa Peltier and several other bystanders ran to his rescue following his collapse. The victim had suffered a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was initiated by the off duty Paramedic and bystanders while Police Officers retrieved one of the Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) supplied through Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program, and funded by the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

CPR was continued and the AED was used to attempt defibrillation. “This is an example of why we were so focused at getting into the PAD program”, said DSB Board Chair Les Gamble. “It has taken some time but the quick actions of those around and proximity of the AED created the opportunity to save a life, and that is exactly what these people did”. Manitoulin Sudbury DSB in conjunction with community partners has been successful in obtaining and installing over 140 AED’s within the area over the course of the last 8 years. This program had been made possible through donations from the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario and both the Provincial and Federal governments

EMS Chief Michael MacIsaac states, “that the rapid actions of those involved directly contributed to a life being saved and their actions should be commended. The quick initiation of CPR and deployment of an AED has made it possible for this individual to be alive and be able to spend more time with his loved ones. I am very proud of Paramedic Peltier for going above and beyond and her actions on that day represent a dedication to her profession and the highest of values within our Organization.”

According to the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation, every year, about 40,000 Canadians experience a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA); one victim every 12 minutes. SCA can strike without warning, affecting people of all ages and all degrees of fitness. When treating sudden cardiac arrest, speed of intervention is essential. If cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and early defibrillation can be actioned in the first few minutes of a cardiac arrest, survival rates can reach up to 75%. Each passing minute leads to a reduction in survival by 7% to 10%. As witnessed in this incident, teaching Canadians CPR and making defibrillators (AEDs) easily accessible through public access defibrillator (PAD) programs can potentially save thousands of lives.

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