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Hamilton



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

Hamilton Launches its Public Access Defibrillation Program

HAMILTON, ON – October 30, 2007 – In a press conference held earlier this morning at Chedoke Twin Pad Arena, Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger announced the official launch of a public access defibrillation program for the City of Hamilton.

“We were successful in obtaining one of the largest grants in the Province of Ontario and utilized this funding to purchase 50 automated external defibrillators and commence training of City staff,” said Mayor Eisenberger.

In March of 2007 the Government of Ontario announced a \$3 million donation to the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation. In addition to this, the Frank Cowan Foundation provided an additional \$1 million in funding. This funding was to be shared by municipalities across the Province towards the placement of 1000 automated external defibrillators in public sites and to train personnel in their use.

General Manager/Chief Jim Kay of Hamilton Emergency Services stated that over 400 City of Hamilton staff members have been trained in the use of these defibrillators and 44 units have now been installed in City owned facilities such as Ivor Wynne Stadium, Copps Coliseum, local arenas, recreation centres and senior’s centres. “We have greatly increased the chance of someone surviving a sudden cardiac arrest while in a City owned facility,” said Chief Kay.

“These 50 new defibrillators will help save lives in Hamilton,” said Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP for Hamilton Mountain. “I want to thank the Ministry of Health Promotion and the Heart and Stroke Foundation for working with the City of Hamilton on this life saving initiative.”

“Under the program, the Heart and Stroke Foundation with the Ontario Government and The Frank Cowan Foundation and other donors, are making possible the purchase, installation and associated training for 1,000 AEDs to be placed in communities across the province,” said Rocco Rossi, CEO, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. “With the help of individuals, community groups and corporate sponsors, like The Frank Cowan Foundation, one day AEDs will become as commonplace as fire extinguishers in Ontario, to save lives during cardiac arrest.”

“The Frank Cowan Foundation is pleased to support the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario,” said Maureen Cowan, President, The Frank Cowan Foundation. “This initiative allows us to contribute to a great cause, and support the communities where many of our employees, clients and business partners live and work. As a result of this donation, more AEDs and training will be available to assist someone who is having a cardiac arrest.”

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For more information, please contact

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