

Automated External Defibrillator Installed at PCTC

PARKSVILLE, BC: An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was recently installed in the atrium of the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre (100 Jensen Avenue East). The AED was donated to the City by the Heart and Stroke Foundation as part of the BC Public Access to Defibrillation (PAD) Program. The PCTC was chosen because it is one of the busiest publicly accessible spaces in the City.

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, sudden cardiac arrest strikes 40,000 Canadians every year, killing more people than breast cancer, prostate cancer and traffic accidents combined.

- Sudden cardiac arrest strikes anyone, anywhere, anytime.
- Almost all cardiac arrest victims will die without an electric shock to restart their heart.
- An AED is a portable, safe device that everyone can use to restart the heart.

Sudden cardiac arrest is when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating, stopping blood from flowing to the brain or other vital organs. Without immediate help, a victim of sudden cardiac arrest will suffer brain damage within three minutes. After 12 minutes, survival is unlikely.

The current survival rate for an out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest is only about five per cent. Evidence shows that survival rates can be increased up to 75 per cent if a defibrillator is used within five minutes; however, access to defibrillators is currently limited.

The AED reads the heart rhythm and only delivers a shock if needed. To support the program, the Foundation is running a province-wide public awareness and education campaign to help citizens recognize the signs of sudden cardiac arrest and to respond by calling 9-1-1, performing CPR and using an AED.

The AED located at the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre is for emergency purposes. The case surrounding the AED will be UNLOCKED AT ALL TIMES to ensure that if the device is needed, it will be available for ANYONE to use. The case surrounding the AED does have an alarm which will sound once the case is opened. The alarm sounds to warn bystanders that an emergency is occurring and the AED is being used. As well, an alarm will sound if the case has been inappropriately opened and/or if the device is being tampered with or stolen.

The BC PAD Program is the result of a partnership between the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the BC Ministry of Health, and will support the installation of 450 AEDs in a variety of public venues throughout B.C. over the next two years, including community centres, arenas, recreation centres, playing fields and parks.

“The ongoing investment in AEDs through the Heart and Stroke Foundation will provide people using the PCTC with important life-saving assistance. With access to this life-saving tool, the PCTC will be a safer place for all of us to gather and lead more active and healthy lives,” says Mayor Chris Burger.

To learn more about the program, visit:

BC PAD program www.bcpadprogram.ca
AED awareness campaign www.aedinyourhands.ca

About the Heart and Stroke Foundation

The Heart and Stroke Foundation, a volunteer-based health charity, leads in eliminating heart disease and stroke and reducing their impact through the advancement of research and its application, the promotion of healthy living, and advocacy.

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For more information:

Debbie Tardiff, Communications Officer 250 954-3073



City of Parksville | 100 Jensen Avenue East (P O Box 1390), Parksville, BC V9P 2H3
Phone 250 248-6144 | Fax 250 954-4685 | www.parksville.ca

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About Parksville — Located on Vancouver Island's sheltered east coast, 12,000 residents call Parksville their home. Parksville offers a quality lifestyle with many activities. We are committed to being the city of choice for ourselves and future generations in a clean, safe, friendly, economically viable and sustainable environment.