



## MEDIA RELEASE



Thurs., March 31

### Photo opportunity: new life-saving device training

Seconds count when it comes to saving lives, especially when it involves the heart.

That's one reason why King Township is leading the way in the use of automated external defibrillators (AED). An AED is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest, a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating.

Three portable AED units are available to trained municipal staff in case of emergency while two more units have been placed in two local seniors' residences. Fire department staff will train residents on how to use the AED at Nobleview Pines in Nobleton on Tues., April 5 at 1 p.m. The other unit will be at Kingview Court at 90 Dew St. in King City.

"AEDs are the first line of defense when seconds count," said King Township Fire Chief Jim Wall. "They can be easily used by people—after first calling 911—with no experience."

Wall thanked the various donors who made the purchase of the new units possible.

The Nobleton Lions Club donated \$6,000, while King resident Lynn Jackson also donated funds. Jackson's husband Paul was a full-time training officer for King Township's Fire and Emergency Services department who died of a heart attack in 2008. Additional funding was provided by the Mikey Network, an organization dedicated to placing AEDs in as many public locations as possible. It was started by local businessman Hugh Heron. ([www.mikeynetwork.com](http://www.mikeynetwork.com))

The three portable AEDs will be available to King staff who spend time on the road as part of their jobs. Several employees are also volunteer firefighters and, if they are closest to the scene of a call, would be able to provide medical assistance with the AED instead of having to travel to the fire station first to pick one up.

"It's one more tool in our collective toolbox," said Ward 2 councillor David Boyd, a professional firefighter by trade. "Fully trained staff, if they happen to be closest to someone in cardiac distress, could be the difference between life and death."

There are currently 25 AEDs in buildings in King Township, while the fire department has nine units. According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the use of an AED—combined with cardio pulmonary resuscitation—can increase the likelihood of survival by 75 per cent or more.

**What:** Training residents of Nobleview Pines to use a new Automated External Defibrillator

**Where:** Nobleview Pines, 48 Wilsen Rd., Nobleton, L0G 1N0

**When:** Tues., April 5, 1 p.m.

**Note:** For media unable to attend, a photo can be provided after the event.

**Media contact**

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*Lying in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area, King Township is located within York Region, one of the fastest growing and diverse economies in Canada. More than 60 per cent of the Holland Marsh, also known as Ontario's salad bowl, lies within King Township. Though predominantly rural, most of King Township's 20,000 residents live in the communities of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. Residents and visitors are drawn to King because of its rural lifestyle, village atmosphere and quality of life.*

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