

Push on for defibrillators

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Jason Miller/The Intelligencer Emma Travis, of Be Prepared First Aid Training and Canadian Red Cross, shows council and example of a defibrillator posted in locations across the city. She said a new one will be placed downtown once a suitable location is found.

Local organizations like the Canadian Red Cross and Heart and Stroke are challenging local businesses to raise funds to make more defibrillators available for public use.

Proponents of both entities told council the campaign is already underway with one defibrillator already purchased, with the intent of installing it downtown. The aim is to better respond to instances of cardiac arrest. About 400,000 cardiac arrest occur across Canada yearly.

"If we do CPR or an AED (defibrillator) right away this will double the chance of that person's survival," said Sandra Barnes of Heart and Stroke, about people who aren't responding after collapsing.

"We have ensured that every school in the Quinte area has an AED," Barnes said of the device which can also be found in arenas, public transit and municipal buildings. "We do have some private owners as well."

The hope is to have five downtown. The Library and Empire Theatre are two downtown who are already carrying defibrillators.

Emma Travis, of Red Cross, said the AED provides instructions and new models now come with video instructions and pictures to guide you through the process. The average price for an AED is \$2,500.

"It delivers a shock and helps that person to get to normal heart rate again,"

It was noted that heart attack and heart disease take a life every seven minutes in Canada. About 1.6 million Canadians are living with heart disease and stroke and nine in 10 Canadians have at least one risk factor.

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"Our (Quinte) statistics are one of the lowest in Ontario," said Barnes. About 22 per cent of people here, have high blood pressure, 57 per cent exceed their desired weight and an estimate 27 per cent still smoke.

The Belleville Hall of Fame has rebranded and not every councillor is playing ball.

The Hall forged in 1987 has been revived with a new committee after being dormant for several years.

"The hall of fame really hasn't been active since 2010," said current president, Dave Mills, a man credited for resuscitating Ontario Golf Association, serving as its executive director.

Mills told council the hall will be renamed Dr. R.L. Vaughan Belleville Sports Hall of Fame. The Hall will be launched in a place at the Sports Centre.

"We received a very significant financial donation," said Mills, about the Vaughan family backing the initiative. He said 'Doc' Vaughan is known for his contribution to local hockey.

We will have television on the walls to show the history of the hall," sai Mills.

About 87 athletes, builders and teams have been inducted to date. The entity will also revive the McDonald's Athlete of the Year program, which recognizes top male and female athletes.

We've put together a bunch of sub-committees," said Mills, of which one will be in charge of athlete of year selection. "We're proud to say McDonald's is back on board."

The website is currently being upgraded and plans are in motion to induct a fresh crop of top performers into the hall next summer.

Coun. Mitch Panciuk credited Vaughan as an incredible advocate, who he had no issues with, but said "there are certain things I don't think we should name and the Belleville Hall of Fame falls under that category. Is there anything else we can do besides changing the name in that way? It's a community hall of fame."

Mills said Vaughan's contribution fuelled the project.

"It very quickly, significantly, took us from having no source of revenue and a few dollars in the bank, to the point where we can get on with things," Mills said, of the reasoning behind naming rights.

Coun. Jack Miller, a member of the new committee, said the nomination process had fallen through the cracks before Mills decided to revive it.

"He saved the Ontario Golf Association," Miller said, of Mills' credentials. "He said the pool and arena have naming rights. They can put the hall of fame together properly. The hall is not a city committee. It does not ask council for any financial support. They have to determine what's best for themselves."
