

UPDATE about the Acquisition of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the Abernethy Community - March 3, 2020 - updates in RED

Darren Tanzell, Coordinator, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Public Access Defibrillation Program (PAD) and advanced paramedic met with representatives from Abernethy community organizations and businesses on January 27, 2020.

Darren gave a one-hour presentation about the importance of all communities having easy access to an AED and how they help save lives. He also answered many practical questions about our rural situation. The AED along with CPR can improve the chances of survival of someone in sudden cardiac arrest if fast action is taken. Chances of survival decrease over time.

DECISION: To purchase an AED for the Abernethy community.

The Abernethy Agricultural Society has purchased the AED following research with the understanding that other community organizations, businesses, and individuals will contribute towards the cost. Thank you to those who have already committed to a donation!

We are attempting to raise a minimum of \$3200 with the hope that we do not need to raise funds again for at least 5 years. This amount includes the purchase of the AED, a hard waterproof cover case, battery replacement/pad changes, and keypad lock. This amount also includes all taxes.

We are grateful for contributions of any amount! Thank you!

CHARITABLE RECEIPT for DONATIONS: Cheques to: RM of Abernethy #186, Box 249, Abernethy, SK S0A 0A0. Indicate 'AED c/o AAS'. You will be provided with a charitable receipt.

SOME DETAILS:

- The Ag Society Board spent 3 weeks researching what is the best AED for our community. Criteria: reasonable price, very easy to use, reputable make, sourced through a Saskatchewan supplier, and replacement parts such as one-use pads quickly available. We also chose a model that assists with CPR via voice instruction and a rhythm to follow to ensure chest compressions are at the correct rate.
- The Phillips 861304 FRX AED has arrived and will be activated for use following the March 11, 2020 Demonstration for the public by Darren Tanzell.
- The AED will be placed in the Firehall on Main Street and will be registered with 911 so its location is immediately accessible to a 911 dispatcher. The dispatcher will give specific directions about how to access the Firehall including the keycode.

- The AED will NOT be portable between events and will be moved only if medically needed.
- If someone goes into cardiac arrest, and a companion calls 911 and gives their location, the Dispatcher tells the caller exactly where the AED is located and how to access it.
- The Agricultural Society will continue to hire St John's Ambulance First Aiders who come with their own AED for Fair Day. Therefore, there is an AED on the Fairgrounds during all events. The Abernethy AED will be in its place for any other incident that could occur locally that day.
- A person with no training can effectively operate an AED as it automatically assesses whether or not a person actually needs defibrillating. Therefore, you cannot hurt anyone by using it. It emits simple verbal instructions about use AND the 911 dispatcher gives verbal instructions over the phone as well. It is assumed that paramedics and ambulance are enroute during this time.
- A community meeting is planned for **Wednesday, March 11 at 7pm** where **Darren Tanzell** will do an orientation to the AED.
- We have had questions about whether to purchase two AEDs to be housed in different parts of the community if sufficient money can be raised. Further discussion needs to occur.
- Keep your questions coming! And thank you for your interest in this life-saving action!

Thank you to the **Abernethy Nature-Heritage Museum** for space to hold the January 27 public meeting, and to the **Abernethy Seniors** who have offered the Seniors Center for the March 11 orientation for the public. Thanks also to **Karissa Lingelbach**, RM Administrator for writing charitable receipts, and to all who attended the January 27 meeting.

- The Board of the Abernethy Agricultural Society