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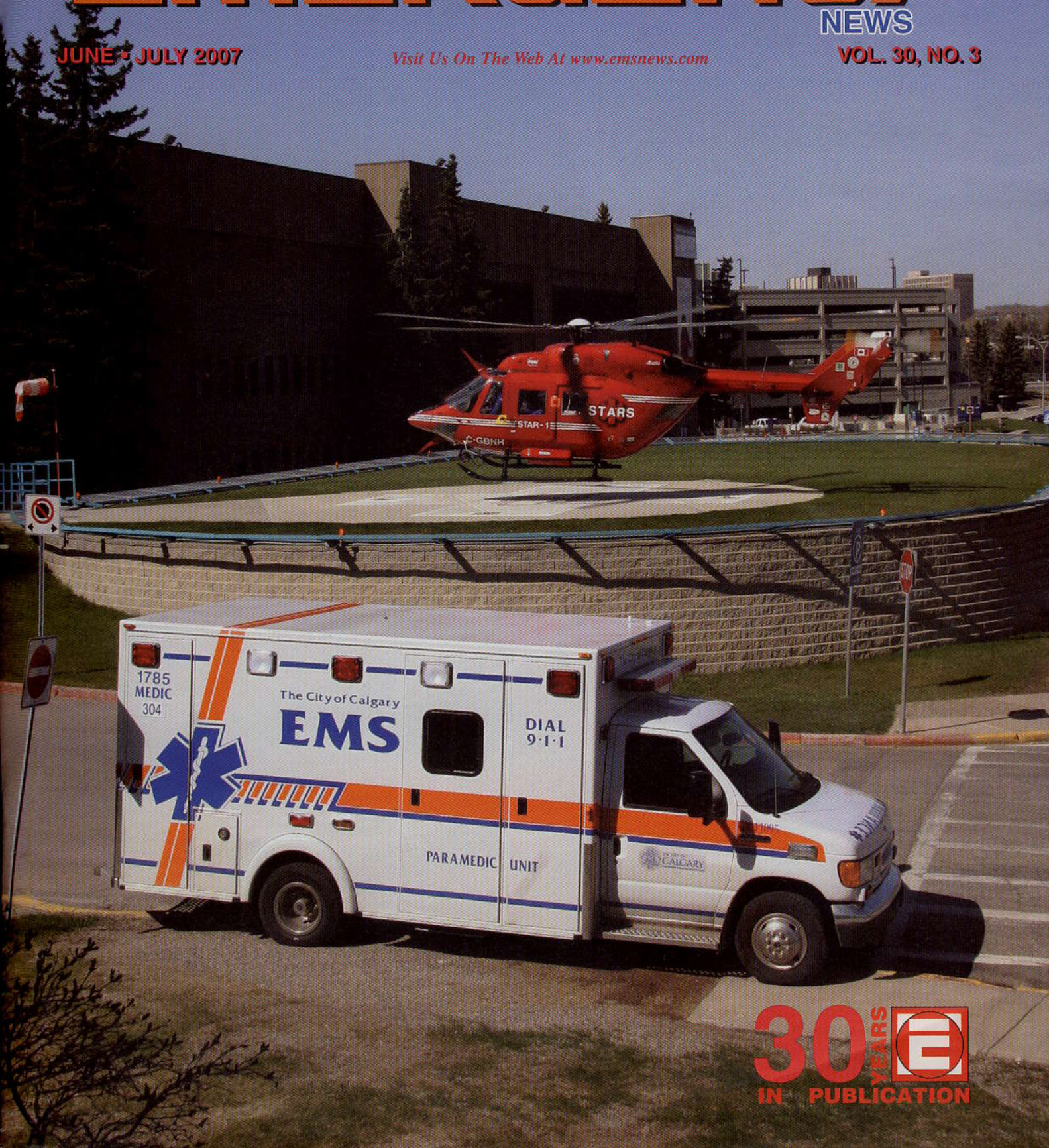
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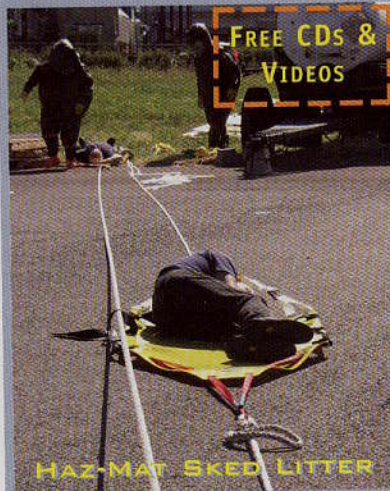
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A NEW VERSION OF SKED STRETCHER IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR MASS CASUALTIES AND HAZ-MAT!

In this space in the February/March issue of *Canadian Emergency News* I outlined my vision of using CEN to create a national forum to bring together the sundry stakeholder groups in Canadian EMS. At that time I was pleased to welcome the Emergency Medical Service Chiefs of Canada (EMSCC) and the Society for Prehospital Educators in Canada (SPEC) to this group, joining the Paramedic Association of Canada, the Ontario Paramedic Association and the Paramedic Association of Manitoba. At that time I also expressed my hope that I would be able to continue to add and introduce new stakeholder groups. Well, I'm happy to welcome another new group as of this issue. The Occupational First Aid Attendants Association of British Columbia (OFAAABC) has taken out a group subscription to CEN for its members, and commencing with this issue they will provide news each issue about the developments taking place in their association. I have long felt that workplace health and safety, like ERs and community health, is a natural extension of the EMS field, and I welcome the perspective that the OFAAABC can bring to the magazine.

I hope that I can continue to announce new groups that join in the CEN forum through group subscriptions and publication of news about their association. If you association is interested, please contact me to get more details.

A couple of editorial features make their debuts this issue as well. Chris Farnady, a PCP from Bradford, Ont., is going to be providing a series of articles dealing with infectious diseases. The first article in this series appears on page 58. On a somewhat related theme, well-known and long-time CEN writer Heather MacKenzie-Carey has provided the first of a three part series on responding to a pandemic influenza outbreak. Heather's article appears on page 18. I hope readers will find these series of articles informative and useful.

I'd also like to draw readers' attention to a new series that made its debut last issue, but which I didn't have space to introduce at that time. Jan Jensen is an

ACP working in Halifax's ground ambulance system, and she has agreed to contribute an ongoing series on research and evidence based paramedic practice. I think this is a topic that is important to the development of paramedicine, and I am delighted that Jan has agreed to take on this topic for CEN.

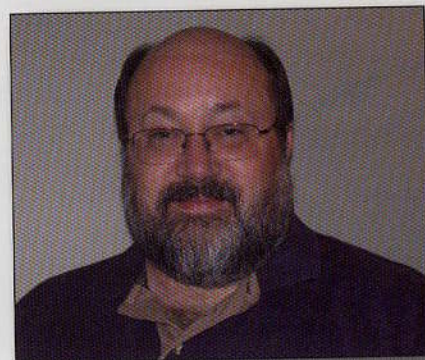
Those are the new items of business for CEN for this issue. While I'm writing about this issue though, I'd like to congratulate the North Bay Professional Paramedics Association for the two successful resuscitations they made thanks to their public access defibrillation program. A full account of their great work appears starting on the next page. Congratulations guys!

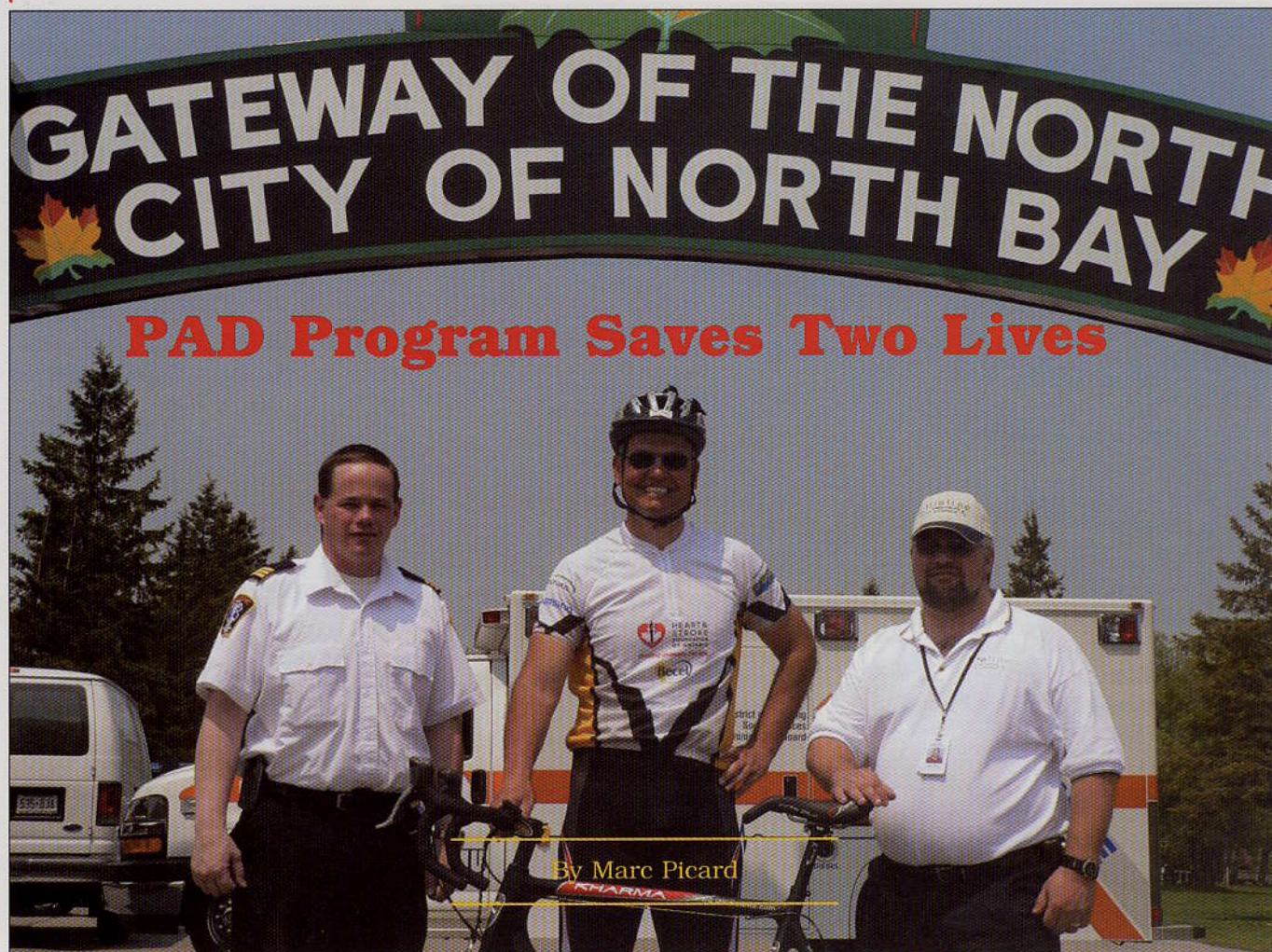
Looking ahead to next issue, I want to invite everyone to send in pictures of what their service did for EMS Week 2007. I have received a few already, and if enough are sent in I will publish a photo feature of what everybody across Canada did to celebrate EMS Week. If you have any questions, send me an e-mail at cen@emsnews.com or call me at 800-567-0911.

Last and not least, I have been told at times over the years that I should publish my picture in this space. I think it's so that people can single me out for my fair share of abuse when I appear at conferences. I have resisted because I don't want to be the "face" of the magazine, but I was finally talked into it at the EMS Chiefs of Canada conference in Winnipeg at the end of May. You can file this under "Be Careful What You Ask For."

Have a safe and happy summer everyone.

—Lyle Blumhagen





PAD Program Saves Two Lives

By Marc Picard

LEFT TO RIGHT: Jim Stewart, EMS Manager, Rocco Rossi, CEO Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario and Marc Picard, Chairman of the Lifeline PAD Program in front of the Gateway of the North sign in North Bay, Ontario during Rocco's Ride Yonge—Stay Young adventure.

"It's so great to be alive," Michael Langevin, the father of two said, in a simple yet poignant expression of gratitude during a media conference at the North Bay, Ontario waterfront on May 24, 2007.

Langevin, 45, credits a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) for saving his life after he suffered a heart attack at the Sturgeon Falls, Ont., arena on April 13, 2007.

He shared his story to promote a Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario fundraising campaign which provided \$22,500 to the Lifeline Public Access Defibrillator Project, which is installing an additional five of the computerized medical devices in high schools in the Nipissing District.

Delivering the funding news was Rocco Rossi, the foundation's chief

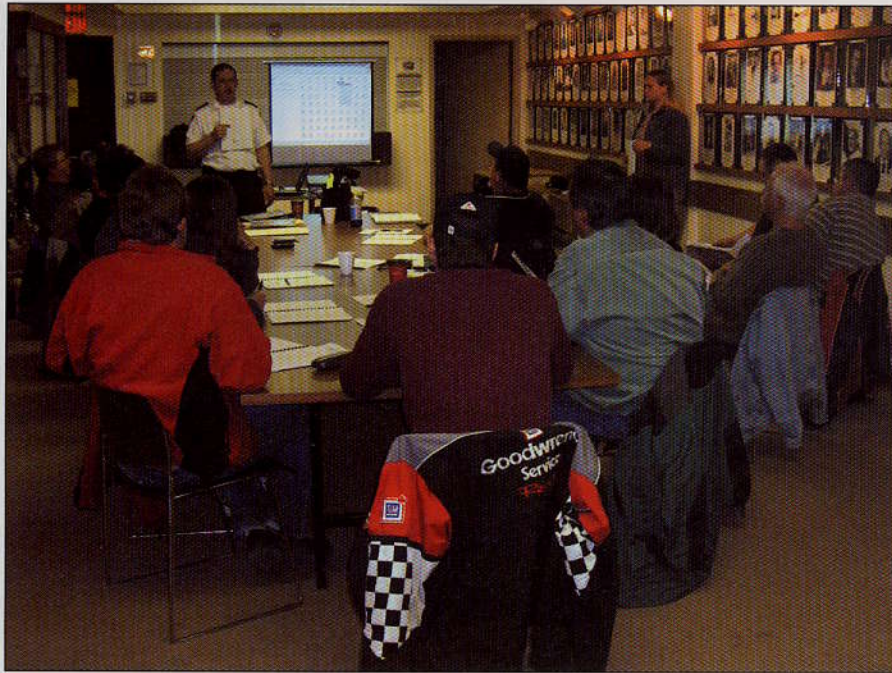


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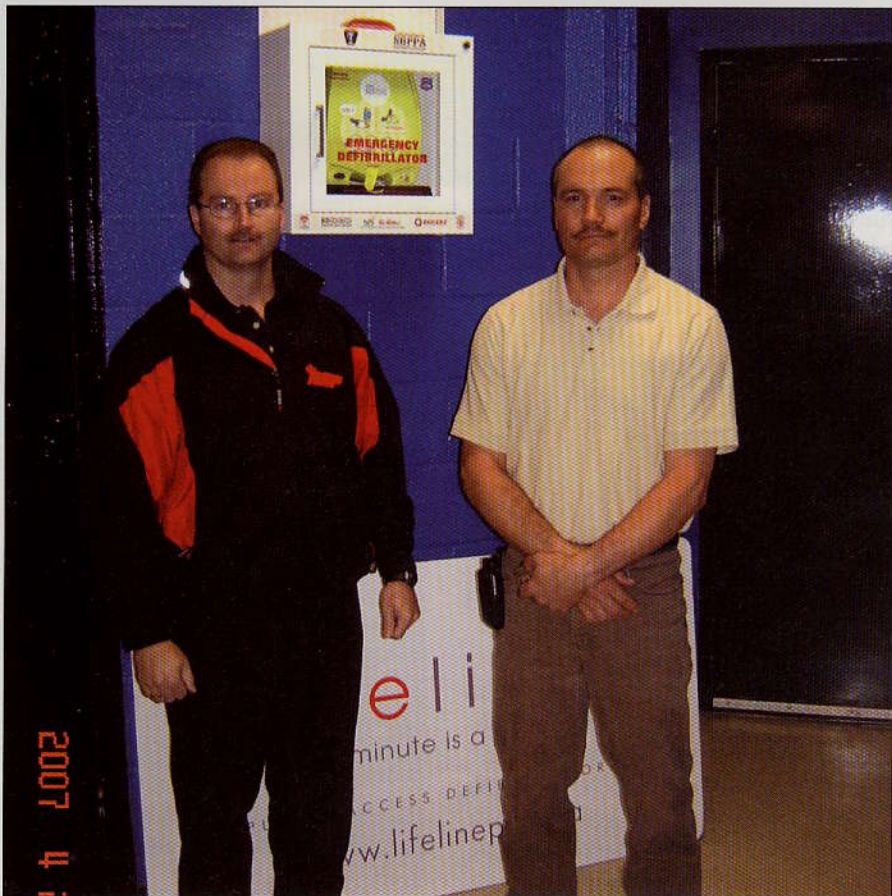
executive officer, who was nearing the completion of a 22-day cycling trip to benefit the Chase McEachern Tribute Fund. His goal of \$250,000 for the "Ride Yonge—Stay Young" adventure will go towards the Heart and Stroke Chase McEachern Tribute Fund. Rocco is cycling the length of Yonge Street, the longest street in the world, from Rainy River to Toronto, a distance of 1,900 km, over 19 days.

Chase McEachern died at the age of 11 after his heart failed during gym class, not long after the young Barrie hockey fan wrote a letter to Don Cherry on Coach's Corner as part of his dream to get defibrillators in every arena in the province. Chase was motivated by his own heart condition and the heroic actions of a trainer who used a defibrillator to save a Detroit Red Wings player, Jiri Fischer, who collapsed on the bench from a similar heart defect. Read more about Chase's story at www.chasemfoundation.com.

Langevin's story started at an old-timers hockey game during the annual tournament at the West Nipissing Community Centre on April 13, 2007. The proceeds from the same tournament the previous year had been donated to the Lifeline Public Access



JIM STEWART, EMS Manager and Erin Alexander, Paramedic, instruct a Public Access Defibrillator course to the District Arena Managers Group in North Bay, Ontario.



RESCUERS TIM MORRIS (left) and Gilles Villeneuve in front of the Lifeline Public Access Defibrillators at Pete Pelangio Arena in North Bay.

Defibrillator Program to help install a PAD at that same arena. One year later at the same tournament, midway through the first period, their donation would pay off in a big way. Michael Langevin was skating to the bench for a line change when he collapsed unconscious to the ice.

As one bystander called 911 from her cell phone, another raced for the PAD in the lobby. Bystanders started their first aid assessment and realized very quickly that Langevin had no pulse and was not breathing. They started CPR.

“If it had not been for the Lifeline Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) stationed in the Sturgeon Falls Arena,” Gilles Villeneuve says, his lifelong friend “most likely would not be alive today.”

Villeneuve was playing hockey with Langevin and says he turned around expecting a pass, but instead found his teammate and friend down on the ice.

“I thought he had a concussion, so I checked on him and he had no vital signs.”

“He had no pulse and his heart was not beating, so I made eye contact with my wife to call 911,” he explained.

In the interim two off-duty nurses came down onto the ice and started CPR. The PAD was quickly applied and one shock was delivered just prior to West Nipissing Paramedics arriving. They continued treatment and transported Langevin to West Nipissing General Hospital.

Villeneuve says the defibrillator is easy to use and the diagrams show you what to do and the machine talks you through the process.

“It’s still emotional. I stood for him in his wedding,” he says.

“In my book, there was very little chance he would have made it. We were very fortunate to have the equipment on hand and it’s user friendly.”

Within two hours of the cardiac arrest, Dr. David Henstridge, President and Medical Director, HeartZAP Services stated that Langevin was doing well, having regained consciousness. “PADs work and save lives. Thanks to all the people who take the time to promote AEDs, educate and train the public!!” he stated.

Michael Langevin is alive today because, like 22 other locations such as other arenas, community centres and now high schools in Nipissing District, the West Nipissing Arena where he played hockey is equipped with a PAD courtesy of the Lifeline Public Access Defibrillator Program.

It is fitting that the North Bay Professional Paramedics Association (NBPPA) was able to kick off National Volunteer Week in May 2007 with such a tremendous announcement. All members of the NBPPA are volunteers and are involved in the delivery of EMS in the District of Nipissing.

A second PAD at a different local arena was used later during that same month. On April 26, 2007, goaltender Glen Arthur was involved in the best save of the tournament. Ironically, it had little to do with hockey, except that Pete Pelangio Arena where he was playing is also equipped with a PAD thanks to the Lifeline Public Access Defibrillator program.

Midway through the first period of the game in North Bay, Glen Arthur, 55, skated to the bench for a rest. He collapsed on his teammates who quickly realized this wasn't a joke.

Spectator Tim Morris noticed the action at the visitor's bench and raced for the defibrillator. "I think I scared the security guard, I kicked the door open to the lobby, grabbed the PAD and ran." Morris stated. Meanwhile, off duty Paramedic Bret Foisy, recognizing that Arthur was without a pulse and not breathing, began CPR.

Morris who is a fitness co-ordinator at CFB North Bay and a certified national lifeguard says he renews his lifesaving certifications annually but never thought he would ever have to use them. Morris had no knowledge of how to use the PAD but agreed in that stressful time the machine was very easy to use.

"The machine talks you through the steps."

"It they (the Lifeline committee) are working to add the machines in different venues I am fully supportive of their effort and will publicly say it does work," Morris said.

Little more than two minutes after the PAD was applied, Arthur's heart

was beating again thanks to a shock from the Zoll Public Access Defibrillator.

"If it wasn't there and those people hadn't jumped into action, I wouldn't be here today," Arthur said a few days later from his hospital bed at the North Bay General Hospital. He was awaiting transfer to an Ottawa Hospital for further treatment.

Arthur, director of recreation for the Town of Arnprior, Ont., has nothing but praise for the local program spearheaded by the North Bay Professional Paramedics Association (NBPPA) and the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB).

Lifeline is an exciting and unique partnership between The NBPPA and DNSSAB. Their combined efforts spearhead a project called "Lifeline—Every Minute is a Lifetime" and its goal is to place PADs in community centres and high-traffic areas in the Nipissing District.

Since February 2005, 23 locations have been equipped under the Lifeline Project with the grateful assistance of several local sponsors, The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and the Heart and Stroke Chase McEachern Tribute Fund. All sponsors and supporters are listed on the website at www.LifelinePAD.ca.

Not only does the project place a PAD on the site, it also includes training the employees on its use and local EMS take care of long-term maintenance of the units.

The installation of the PADs, purchased through a local company, HeartZAP Services Inc, includes a two stage alarm. The PADs are mounted in a metal cabinet and when the cabinet door is opened, an audible alarm and red light are activated. The alarm is two fold, as it warns others that there is a medical emergency in the vicinity and it deters vandalism.

Once the PAD unit is removed from the case, a second alarm is activated at the True Steel alarm monitoring station and the emergency services are immediately contacted through the North Bay Central Ambulance Communication Centre.

The NBPPA still advises the public

to call 911 in an emergency, which provides additional information to the responding emergency personnel including the exact location of the patient.

The Lifeline project is unique in that it is the first PAD project that relies solely on fundraising. Other PAD projects are city funded.

The NBPPA is also collaborating with the Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation (ACT) and in May 2007 launched a high school CPR program that will see a total of 1,300 grade 9 students trained in CPR. This program will also evolve into a Public Access Defibrillator Program.

Langevin, who works in North Bay, is now recovering from a quadruple bypass and learning more about the hereditary heart condition that has claimed six of his mother's siblings.

"Everyone thinks they are invincible," Langevin said, noting he was in excellent condition before the attack two shifts into his 75th hockey game of the season.

As an active man "I thought it would never happen ... but it did," he said. **E**

About The NBPPA

The North Bay Professional Paramedics Association is a charitable organization, registered on October 27, 1999.

The purpose of the NBPPA is to provide emergency medical services at community events where a regular size ambulance is not accessible, practical or available. The NBPPA also promotes Emergency Medical Services throughout the community by participating in community events, public relations, sponsorship of local youth groups and events as well as charitable donations.

Throughout its history, the NBPPA has evolved into a district-wide association. A member must be involved in the delivery of Emergency Medical Services in the District of Nipissing. There are no fees or dues associated with membership. All members are volunteers.

For more information, visit the NBPPA website at www.northbay.ambulance.ca