

Seconds save lives

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Tim Morris (left) and Gilles Villeneuve learned first hand how easy it is to use the Lifeline Public Access Defibrillator when they came to the rescue of two hockey players.

The saying goes 'seconds save lives' and Lifeline Public Access Defibrillator program demonstrated how true that statement is as they were used successfully twice in two weeks to resuscitate 2 men who collapsed while playing hockey in the District of Nipissing.

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. Villeneuve made the statement during a Lifeline Public Access Defibrillator program media conference Wednesday at Pete Pelangio Arena.

Villeneuve was playing hockey with his friend on Friday April 13th, and says he turned around expecting a pass, but instead found his friend down on the ice.

"I thought he had a concussion, so I checked 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 and then they implemented the PAD and shocked him back to life. 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."

Tim Morris says the events that unfolded on the ice at Pete Pelangio Arena on Saturday April 21, have had him on an emotional roller coaster.

Morris also deployed a PAD when Glen Arthur from Arnprior Ontario suddenly collapsed on the bench.

"I was watching my friends play Arnprior when I noticed that that bench was going crazy," he explains.

"I said some one is having a heart attack. So I grabbed the defib machine and got it ready while Brett an off duty paramedic performed 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."

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