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North Bay man scaling storeys for defib fundraiser - VIDEO

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Jean Guy Belzile doesn't want to find himself riding in the back of an ambulance.

So the manager of Nipissing District Emergency Medical Services is training every day at the North Bay YMCA to take part in the Heart and Stroke 7 Summits fundraiser Feb. 22.

Belzile has set a \$20,000 goal to bring more public-access defibrillators and training to the area as part of the Heart and Stroke Foundation's \$1.5-million provincial target.

He'll be climbing the stairs of the seven tallest office buildings in Toronto's downtown core in one morning.

"We need awareness to save lives and we need the tools in order to save lives and this is why I'm doing this," Belzile said Thursday morning after deputy mayor and Lifeline champion Peter Chirico joined him for a warm up run.

The pair climbed the seven storeys of city hall using the stairwell — and they're so keen they repeated the feat when members of the media waited in the other stairwell for the photo and video opportunity.

"All the funds raised locally will come back locally," Belzile said, noting there's \$4,500 in his campaign kitty.

Dr. Dave Henstridge of HeartZAP Services Inc. issued a corporate challenge by offering a defibrillator and training for up to eight people. Any business donating \$100 or more will be eligible for the draw with the prize worth \$3,000.

Lifeline and the Heart and Stroke Foundation are holding a breakfast with Mayor Vic Fedeli at Clarion Resort Pinewood Park Feb. 11 at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10. Joining the mayor and donors at the breakfast will be people whose lives were saved during resuscitations in the district.

On the web: www.lifelinePAD.ca

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