

# Town hosts first rural ACLS course

By Michael Bennett

For the first time the province's history an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course was held in a rural area.

On Saturday and Sunday, Nov.

28 and 29, local doctors, medical personnel and paramedics took a 16-hour course in the convention room of the Bar B in Assiniboia.

The course covered the full range of medical procedures to be

taken after any life-threatening cardiac emergency. The students practised placing airways, defibrillation, and were tested on their ability to diagnose the state of a victim, assess his condition, and recommend drug therapy, when required.

Instructors of the course were Dr. Volker Reninsland, a family physician from Moose Jaw; ACLS instructor Michael Sommes, from Thief River Falls, Minnesota; and Lois Tirebuck, an RN from Moose Jaw.

Dr. Norman Juell of Assiniboia; Dr. Rahaman of Churchbridge; and Dr. Coneys of Lafleche were three doctors to take the course. All Assiniboia doctors now have ACLS training. Wald Ambulance paramedics Steve Wald and Donna Fiset also took the course, along with Dianna Palmier and Daisy Frostad of Lafleche; Beverly Wilson and Pauline Harper of Assiniboia; and Cindy Headrick of Coronach.

The course was sponsored by Wald Ambulance through the Saskatchewan Heart Foundation.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons has recommended that all rural physicians have ACLS training, and the paramedics need the ACLS course every two years as part of their continuing education.



Photo by Michael Bennett

*Dr. Reninsland (left) was one of three instructors at the ACLS course. Here he discusses emergency procedures with L-R; Donna Fiset, Steve Wald, and Pauline Harper.*