



HALDIMAND-NORFOLK HEALTH UNIT

PEARLY WRITES

A dental public health newsletter for Haldimand and Norfolk Dental Offices.

Publically Funded Dental Equipment for New Preventive Dental Clinic

The Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit is planning to open its first Preventive Dental Clinic aimed at elementary and preschool-age children.

The decision follows the announcement this spring by Canada's Chief Dental Officer, Dr. Peter Cooney, of \$3 million dollars in federal funding to provide publicly funded dental equipment for all the Health Units in Ontario.

Each Health Unit was allocated \$83,000 to purchase the equipment in an effort to improve access to dental care. The acquisition of publicly funded dental equipment will ensure the provision of essential clinical preventive services in accordance with the current Mandatory Health Program Services Guidelines and the proposed Preventive Oral Health Services Protocol 2008. Preventive oral health services include professionally applied topical fluoride, pit and fissure sealants, scaling and sports mouth guards.

The Haldimand-Norfolk clinic is being opened in recognition that dental treatment can be costly and not all families have dental insurance or can afford preventive services. Elementary and preschool aged children must first be screened by a dental hygienist at one of the Health Unit's various screening clinics and those who meet eligibility criteria will then be referred to the Preventive Dental Clinic.

The new clinic will provide preventive services to children who otherwise could not access these services. The Health Unit's dental hygienist will:

- Apply fluoride on teeth and fissure sealants on molars to prevent cavities.
- Clean teeth to prevent gum disease.
- Provide instruction for families on how to brush and floss teeth.
- Provide information on nutrition and its relationship to dental health.

Receiving preventive services will help prevent dental diseases, which, if left untreated, may lead to severe pain and dental abscesses and loss of teeth. It is less likely that dental diseases will progress to urgent conditions where access to oral health care is available.

Establishing the clinic is also consistent with a key recommendation of the recently released 2007 Haldimand-Norfolk Dental Report that called for adoption of health promotion strategies that would improve the dental health status in Haldimand and Norfolk by focusing on primary prevention rather than primary care.

The Dental Report acknowledged that there are some formidable challenges in dental health in Haldimand and Norfolk, citing disparities associated with living in a rural community, including lack of access to dental care and preventive services, as well as socio-economic factors.

We are proud to introduce our Health Unit's first dental public health newsletter, "Pearly Writes." Our newsletter is designed to keep dental offices informed of current dental public health developments within our Health Unit as well as across the province. We hope you will enjoy our new newsletter.



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Dental Public Health Websites to Explore

The following websites are worth exploring:

Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry

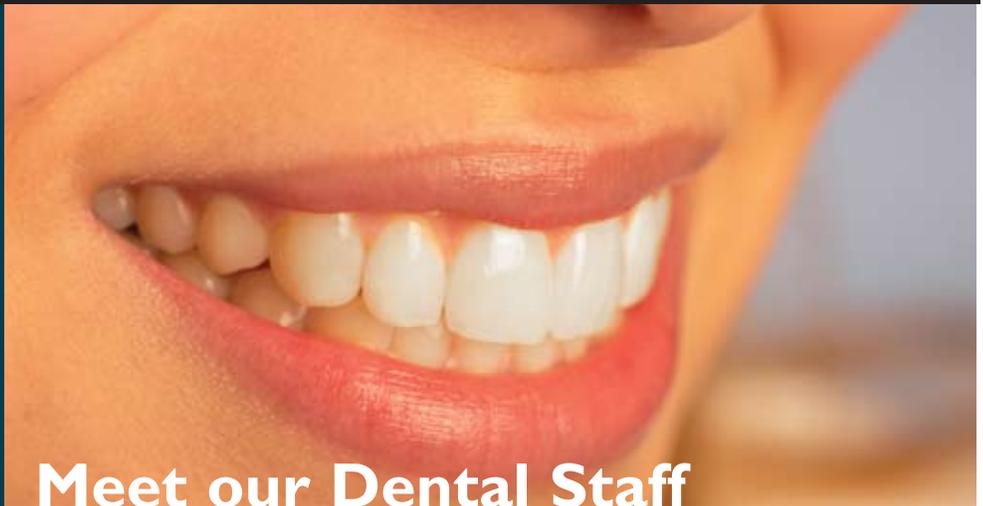
The Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry or OAPHD is an association of dental professionals whose prime interest is the oral health of the general public. Most of the association's members work in local public health departments and provide oral and dental health information and services for the community in which they work. They are also involved in annual programs directed to school children in elementary schools across Ontario.

For more information, visit the website at www.oaphd.on.ca.

The Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry

The Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD) represents a diverse array of individuals, professions and backgrounds with many perspectives, all interested in contributing to the oral health and overall well-being of all Canadians. The association includes clinicians, scientists, educators, administrators, policy makers, advocates, researchers and front-line service workers. Members place a priority on the well-being of communities and social justice for vulnerable groups while respecting the dignity and worth of individuals.

For more information, visit the website at www.caphd-acsdp.org/.



Meet our Dental Staff

Dr. Wayne McKay

Dr. McKay is the Dental Consultant at the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1966 with a DDS degree and received his Master of Dental Public Health degree from the University of Alabama in 1992. He is married with two grown children and one grandson. Dr. McKay has worked at the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit for the past 13 years as well as working at three other Health Units.

Wendy Holmes

Wendy is the Health Unit's Clinical Services Program Coordinator. The dental program is part of the clinical services team. She oversees the dental staff and the dental program budget.

Barb McCabe

Barb is the dental secretary at the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit. Barb started working in the office of Simcoe Public Health in February 1970. Barb came to the Dental Team in the fall of 1987 along with the new dental treatment program we know as CINOT. Barb's newest challenge will be working with the new OHISS computer system developed by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion.

Shana Wingrove

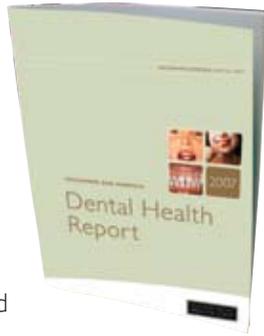
Shana is the preventive dental assistant at the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit. She has worked for the Health Unit for three years. She graduated in 1988 from Career Canada as a certified dental assistant. In 1993, she attended the University of Western Ontario to receive her preventive dental assistant diploma. She has worked in private practices as a chair-side assistant, dental receptionist and as a preventive dental assistant. She currently lives in Tillsonburg with her husband Scott and their four children. She enjoys working in public health and finds it very rewarding.

Kim Casier

Kim is the dental hygienist at the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit. She received her diploma in Dental Hygiene in 1990 from St. Clair College in Windsor. She has been a Dental Hygienist for 18 years. She worked 11 years in private practice and has been employed at the Health Unit for seven years. She is married and has two children. Kim also attends Ryerson University part time in the Health Services Management Program.

The Haldimand-Norfolk Dental Health Report

In keeping with our role of monitoring the dental health status of children in our community, the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit recently released its first Dental Health Report. This research was undertaken to understand and raise awareness of the dental health needs and disparities within Haldimand and Norfolk Counties.



Haldimand and Norfolk.

There is a strong link between oral health and income, and the cost and lack of dental insurance remains the primary barrier to dental care for low-income groups. Dental care, unlike medical care, is not covered by OHIP. Just recently as part of its poverty reduction strategy, the government announced it will be

developing a plan to provide dental services to low-income persons. The government will invest \$135 million over three years, starting in 2009. One intention is to improve and enhance the delivery of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program, which currently provides urgent dental care services to children in low-income families from birth to Grade 8 or to age 14, whichever is later. In January 2009, CINOT will be expanded to include children in low-income families until their 18th birthday.

As we all know, oral health has a significant impact on our general health, well-being, and quality of life. Oral diseases may negatively affect speech, eating and sleeping, and the appearance of poor teeth can undermine self image, self esteem and social acceptance. Poor oral health can also cause students to miss school and or lack concentration while at school. Despite great improvements in the oral health status of populations across the world, oral diseases remain a problem for children and adults in

Inequalities in oral health exist due to differences in financial status and the ability to access dental care. Although improved treatment services are required, they can never alone reduce the underlying causes. Efforts should focus on preventive oral health promotion to reduce the burden of dental illness. Dental caries are preventable. Effective dental health promotion, chronic disease prevention and clinical preventative services require a multi-pronged, multi-sectoral approach that includes reorienting health services, creating supportive environments, developing personal skills, building health public policy and fostering ongoing research. Key challenges must be overcome before we can see future improvements to Haldimand and Norfolk's dental health status.

To review a copy of the 2007 Dental Health Report please visit the report section of the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit website at www.hnhu.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

In Memory

Dr. Sheela Basrur passed away on June 3. Dr. Basrur was the former Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario and a former Medical Officer of Health for Toronto and East York. Her career was distinguished by such achievements as directing Toronto's public health response to SARS, developing Ontario's new agency for health protection and developing Ontario's tobacco-control strategy.

\$135 Million Provincial Funding for Dental Care

On March 17, the Office of the Premier announced the government will be developing a plan to provide dental services to low-income Ontarians with an investment of \$135 million over three years, starting in 2008-2009. The government will work with public Health Units, Community Health Centers, dentists and dental hygienists to deliver these prevention and treatment services, aimed especially at children. Part of this investment will include an expansion of the CINOT program to include children in low-income families until their 18th birthday.

Water Fluoridation in Ontario

In May, Region of Waterloo Council approved holding a plebiscite on water fluoridation in 2010. In June, the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry Fluoride Working Group met with the Ministry of Environment's Satish Deshpande who is conducting a policy review of fluoridation. A report on water fluoridation and possible alternatives is also scheduled for City of Hamilton Council. Also this summer, Health Canada and the CDA are planning to release a joint statement in support of water fluoridation.

Say Hello to OHISS

Oral Health Information Support Services (OHISS) is a new centralized, web-based application to support the administration of public health's mandated dental programs (i.e. CINOT, dental screening and the clinical preventive services). This system will replace the existing CINOT software which used a DOS Fox Pro system. OHISS will be released in two phases. This summer Phase 1 will replace the existing CINOT application with a functionally equivalent application. This fall, Phase 2 will provide functional enhancements supporting the electronic collection of dental screening/surveillance data and clinical preventive services data. OHISS is a joint project between the Ministry of Health Promotion and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Training bulletins and webinars have been provided to assist public health staff with implementation.

Current Public Dental Programs in Ontario



For the most part, Ontario residents pay out of pocket or use private dental insurances for their dental care.

However, there are programs or clinics that help provide some access to care for the most vulnerable. These programs include the following:

Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program

This program provides basic dental care for children in need of dental treatment whose parents do not have dental insurance and for whom the cost of treatment would create a financial hardship. Information can be accessed at website www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/child/cinot.html.

Ontario Works

Ontario Works provides basic dental coverage for children up to their 18th birthday and discretionary coverage for adults. Each municipality decides what dental services will be covered

for adults. Information can be accessed at website www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/pillars/social/programs/ow.htm.

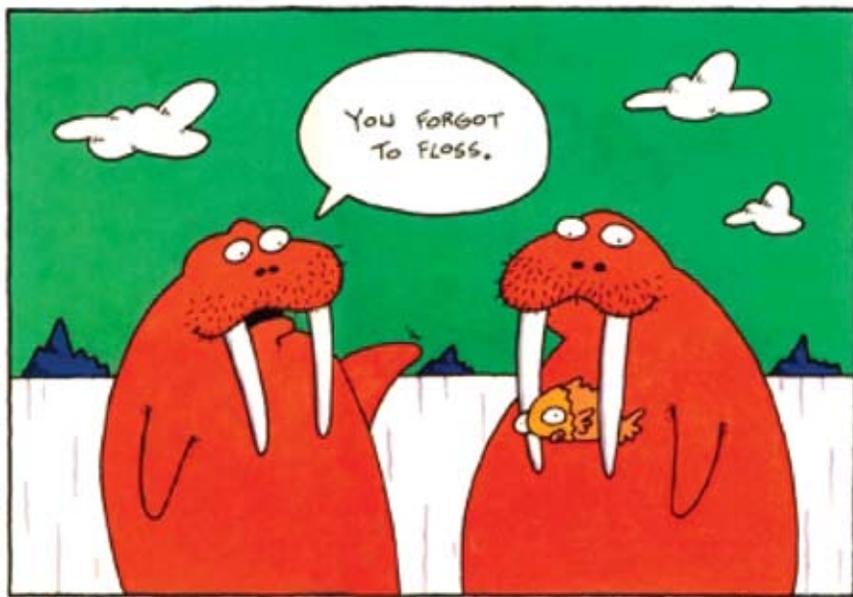
Ontario Disability Support Program

This program provides basic dental coverage for the recipient, the recipient's spouse and the couple's dependent children (up to their 18th birthday). The recipient may also be a child. Information can be accessed at website www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/pillars/social/programs/odsp.htm.

The Dental Indices Survey (DIS) and preventive services

Health authorities conduct surveys on a regular basis to determine the level of oral health of Ontario children. Topical fluoride and fissure sealants are provided for elementary school children who meet evidence-based eligibility criteria. Participating schools are determined according to need as shown by the oral health surveys. There is no cost to families.

A Little Dental Humour.....



www.arttogogo.com/cprintlarge11.htm • Charlie Podrebarac

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Simcoe, ON N3Y 4L1
519.426.6170 or 905.318.6623

Caledonia:
282 Argyle Street South
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HALDIMAND-NORFOLK
HEALTH UNIT

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