

SFMH House Calls

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

More than 5000 women have received mammograms and clinical breast exams at St. Francis Memorial Hospital since our opening in October 2000 as part of the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP). In 2008, the Barry's Bay site has screened over 500 women so far. The Barry's Bay site provides screening to women of Whitney, Madawaska, Bancroft, Maynooth and some of the surrounding Hastings County.

This service could make a difference in your life, or the life of someone you love.

Who can benefit from OBSP screening?

This free service is available to women in Ontario aged 50 and older who do not have acute breast symptoms or a personal history of breast cancer. No referral is required from a family doctor. Appointments can be booked by phoning 1-800-916-6277 and requesting to be seen at the Barry's Bay site.

What exactly does this involve?

When you visit the OBSP department on the day of your appointment, you will be given a two-view mammogram, breast self-examination by a registered nurse certified in this area of care. You will receive your results in a follow-up letter from the OBSP.

What if something is found?

The first step is to determine the exact nature of any abnormality that is found. If you do not have a physician, OBSP will arrange your follow-up investigations and find a physician to provide the breast care you need.

Many abnormalities are benign, and can be left untreated or require minimal treatment. If the abnormality indicates breast cancer, early intervention is the best way to fight the disease.

Who provides this service at SFMH?

Marie Villeneuve-Scott is the Nurse Examiner. She is a specially trained Registered Nurse who will examine your breasts and teach you how to complete self-examination. It is important to become familiar with how your breasts feel so you can detect any changes. Mammograms are taken by Registered Mammography Technologists, Alison Bishop or Jan Leigh-Mosley and reviewed by Radiologists at the Renfrew Victoria Hospital who specializes in reading x-rays of the breast. Our OBSP team is rounded out by Lorraine Finn, Auxiliary President, who has been volunteering as our clinic receptionist since the programs opening in 2000.

Are there provincial standards for these procedures?

Our staff, and the equipment they use, meets the highest standards in the country. Our caregivers are certified and participate in ongoing education. Our equipment is tested by an expert physicist twice each year. In addition, our own team performs daily, weekly and monthly tests to ensure the equipment's precision.

Is there any reason not to take advantage of this program?

We can't think of one. This program helps you take charge of your own health! Call 1-800-916-6277 and book your appointment today.

CAPTION FOR PICTURE:

Alison Bishop, Lorraine Finn, Marie Villeneuve-Scott and Jan Leigh-Mossley make up the team that offers SFMH's Ontario Breast Screening Program