



Crown Hill WI, Kempenfeldt District

The 2005 Oro World's Fair was a great event! Crown Hill WI hosted their own display – handing out promotional material and kits on community health and safety issues. Shown here is Pat Richards.



Norfolk District

Norfolk District hosted a ROSE Session with the theme, "Remembering our Heritage." Guest speakers Marian and Bill Ferris shared the story of Bev Wycoffe, a Vittoria resident who was lost over France in 1944. Pat Barker spoke about the centennial quilt that was made by the Women's Institute in 1967, while Nancy Racz, a local member of the Quilters Guild, talked about three signature quilts which were on display – they date back over 100 years! Rose Marie Smith also shared the history of Tweedsmuir to a crowd of 41 people.

Cervical Cancer Awareness Week urges women to participate in regular screening

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The Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSPP) a program of Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), announces the third annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Week, planned for October 23-29, 2006. The intent of this strategy is to remind the general population and health care providers that regular Papanicolaou (Pap) tests can prevent cancer of the cervix.

Cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates have decreased by more than 50 percent in the last 30 years due to the widespread availability of the Pap test. Yet, in spite of this significant prevention, over 5,500 Ontario women were living with a diagnosis of cancer in 2002. Every week about 10 Ontario women will be diagnosed with, and three women will die from cancer of the cervix. More than 20 percent of women in our province are seldom or never screened. These populations include newcomers to Canada, women of low literacy, those living in poverty and women over 50 years of age. OCSPP recommends regular screening for all women who are, or have ever been, sexually active, until at least age 70.

The Cervical Cancer Awareness Week urges women to participate in screening. Pap tests detect cell changes that are caused by persistent infection with Human Papillomavirus (HPV). In most healthy women with a strong immune system, HPV infection may clear spontaneously.

In July 2006, Health Canada approved a quadrivalent recombinant vaccine to protect against Human Papillomavirus (types 6, 11, 16, 18). The vaccine was approved for use among females 9 to 26 years of age for the prevention of cervical cancer, vulvar cancer, vaginal cancer, precancerous lesions and genital warts that are related to those four HPV types. While the vaccine is good news for young women not yet exposed to HPV, the vaccine does not eliminate the need for cervical cancer screening. Women who have already been exposed to the virus will not benefit from the vaccine.



The OCSPP encourages women to talk to their clinicians about cervical cancer and HPV. There are often no symptoms and most women don't know they have HPV. As with other sexually transmitted infections (STI), the risk of HPV increases with every new sexual partner. Condoms do not likely prevent HPV transmission. The presence of co-factors and high

risk behaviours which include smoking and co-infection with other STI's can increase the risk of HPV acquisition and transmission.

To learn more about HPV and cancer of the cervix, visit the Cervical Screening link at www.cancercare.on.ca. Call the Canadian Cancer Society at 1-888-939-3333 or visit www.cancer.ca or contact your public health unit at www.alphaweb.org.