

# Health Unit Media Release



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## **The Brockville Ontario Breast Screening Program Celebrates Their Fifth Anniversary!**

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) affiliate site located within the Brockville General Hospital, celebrated 5 years of service. The site has completed over 6500 breast screens since it's inception in 2000. In commemoration, Brenda Bass, regional administrator for the OBSP's Southeast Region, presented a plaque to Mary MacCulloch, Manager of Diagnostic Imaging for the Brockville General Hospital.

The Brockville site is one of over 100 OBSP sites in Ontario that screens women 50 years and over for breast cancer. Women in this age group are considered to be at the highest risk for developing breast cancer and benefit most from regular breast screening that consists of mammograms (breast x-rays) every 1-2 years and yearly clinical breast examinations. Regular screening helps to detect cancer early, while tumours are small and before they have a chance to spread. Recent statistics from Cancer Care Ontario show that breast cancer deaths in women aged 50-69 have dropped by 29% since 1989. This dramatic decrease has been attributed to both better treatment and the effect of early detection of breast cancer through screening.

At the OBSP, clients receive high quality mammograms, a clinical breast exam by a specially trained nurse and information about breast self-examination. Each time a woman comes to the OBSP for screening, she undergoes a risk assessment to determine if she should be re-screened in 1 or 2 years. When it is time to be screened, the OBSP will send out a letter reminding her to make an appointment. The OBSP tracks women from screening through to diagnosis to ensure that abnormalities found at screening are followed and to allow the program to monitor outcomes. This service is free and women can call to make their own appointment or can be referred by their health care provider.

Regular client surveys show that clients are very happy with the service at the OBSP. "I was very impressed with the friendly atmosphere and level of professionalism at the OBSP- the staff were marvellous at making me feel comfortable." "I encourage women to go for screening at the OBSP. It's a really great program –and it saves lives."-OBSP clients.

### **To make an appointment at the Ontario Breast Screening Program call your local site:**

Brockville- Brockville General Hospital	(613) 345-8304
Kingston OBSP Centre	(613) 384-4284 1-800-465-8850
Ottawa OBSP Centre	(613) 728-0777 1-800-465-6226
Renfrew-Renfrew Victoria Hospital	(613) 432-4851 1-800-916-6277
Winchester-Winchester District Memorial Hospital	(613) 774-2422 ext. 5617

For information on breast health and healthy lifestyles call the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853 or visit our website at [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org).

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For a photo of the plaque presentation, contact Susan Healey, Communications Co-ordinator, 345-5685 or [Susan.Healey@healthunit.org](mailto:Susan.Healey@healthunit.org) (or Oksana Shewchenko at 345-5685)