

Dental outreach expected to open mid-May

By Mark Arike

Even though a few “construction slowdowns” and “financial setbacks” have come its way, Haliburton County’s first volunteer dental outreach is expected to open close to its original target date.

In an April 23 email to The Voice, Bill Kerr, head organizer of the dental outreach said that drywall work had been completed but there still was some painting that needed to be finished before a mid-May opening.

Kerr also said that he recently toured the renovated space, located at 739 Mountain St. in Haliburton, with six of the dentists who have agreed to volunteer their services.

“The dentists were very impressed with the facility,” said Kerr, who also met with them to discuss logistics of the clinic’s operation.

SIRCH Community Services has started doing “financial screenings” which determine a resident’s eligibility for urgent dental services that will be available at the outreach.

At an April 7 meeting, organizers of the outreach indicated that they were facing a financial shortfall of just over \$2,500 for start-up costs.

“We are still asking for financial donations or donations of Timbr Mart vouchers purchased with Air Miles so we do not have to delay the opening for financial reasons,” said Kerr.

The group has organized a movie fundraiser night for Thursday, April 28 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. All proceeds from the 7:15 p.m. showing of “A Small Act” will benefit the outreach. The event is sponsored by Those Other Movies.

For more information about the event call Bill at 705-286-3696 or Those Other Movies at 705-286-3656.

Donations to the dental outreach can be made online at www.sirch.on.ca. Donors can receive a tax receipt for their contribution. The volunteer dental outreach is intended to provide urgent dental services to Haliburton County residents who aren’t financially able to pay for important dental treatment. A website with more details is up at www.dental-outreach.com.



Volunteer dentists tour the outreach on April 22, left to right: Dr. Rick Bastien, Dr. Bill Moebus, Dr. Bill Kerr, Dr. Jeff Martin, Dr. Brad Oldfin, Dr. John Purc and Dr. Ed Busvek.

Photo by Mark Arike.

Brushing up

Volunteers, left, Mark Roberts and Dan Goodwin apply the base coat to the ceiling of the soon-to-be opened Haliburton County Volunteer Dental Outreach Clinic in Haliburton on Tuesday, April 26.

Organizer and dentist Bill Kerr met with other dentists recently who were "very impressed with the facility," Kerr says.

Despite some construction and financial issues, Kerr says the clinic will be ready for a May opening.

"Financial screenings have started at SIRCH Community Services, but until the clinic is finished, we are holding off booking dental appointments," Kerr wrote in an email to the *Echo*.

The clinic, which will offer dental services for those in financial need, is still looking for donations. Visit www.sirch.on.ca and click "donate now" to make a donation.

Darren Lum Echo staff

