

# New X-ray for dental clinic

By **Matthew Desrosiers**  
Editor

Since opening its doors in May 2011, the Volunteer Dental Outreach (VDO) for Haliburton County has completed \$701,201 worth of free dentistry.

And it's all thanks to volunteers.

Dr. Bill Kerr spoke to those individuals during an appreciation lunch at the Bonnie View Inn on Oct. 27. He said to date the clinic has had 16 dentists volunteer, along with 16 hygienists, 11 dental assistants, and seven front desk staff.

Oral surgeon Dr. Eddie Reinish has reviewed x-rays for the clinic, and even removed a patient's wisdom teeth when other volunteer dentists were not completely comfortable performing the procedure.

The clinic has treated 356 patients over 1,959 appointments, and still has another 54 people on the waiting list for care.

This year, the VDO's board of directors agreed to purchase a new Panoramic x-ray machine. The old machine was donated to the clinic by Dr. Chris Tom prior to the VDO opening in May 2011. Kerr said it has been a valuable tool for diagnosing patients, however the picture quality from the older machine was not the best.

Peter Kubista, owner of Specialty



Photo by Mark Arike

Bill Kerr, founder of the VDO, speaks about the success of the local dental care program.

Dental, sold a new Belmont direct digital Panoramic x-ray machine to the VDO for an "amazing price", and took the old machine as a trade in.

Kathy Purc, a VDO director, said during the purchase discussions that the VDO's patients deserve the same standard of care as other dental patients, and that this

machine is a basic tool required in treating patients.

The message of the afternoon was that the VDO has had a significant impact on the lives of Haliburton County residents, and that's all thanks to the volunteers.

"This event was put on to let all of you know how much the board of directors of

the VDO of Haliburton County appreciate how much you have done for our clinic," Kerr said. "But I really have to tell you that how much we appreciate you is so small compared to how much these patients that have no other option for dental care appreciate what you do."

# Area services possible due to volunteers

## **Volunteer Dental Outreach**

The clinic in Haliburton, opened in 2011, operates almost exclusively thanks to vol-

unteer hours from professional staff. Nineteen dentists, 18 hygienists, 11 dental assistants and eight dental administrators have volunteered since the beginning with eight regular dental volunteers and five regular hygienists, said co-founder Lisa Kerr. The clinic was renovated by volunteer contractors and the board has nine volunteer members.

"Our organization can only afford to do what we do because of our team of volunteers. In any dental practice, the staff cost is the major expense of the practice. We could never afford to support the cost of treating patients, to date 406 and \$875,000 in free care, if not for our volunteers," Kerr said.

VDO holds casual volunteer events to recognize the huge impact those who give their time have on the dental health of the Highlands, but Kerr said the staff also receive plenty of positive feedback from members of the public who are helped by the VDO.

She said the Highlands offers a host of volunteer organizations, allowing anyone to get involved.

"There are so many examples of extraordinary volunteer organizations in Haliburton County that there is no end to the opportunities to share a skill or talent within this community," she said.

## **Point in Time**

The organization supporting families and youth in Haliburton County runs thanks to its 12-member board of directors. They meet monthly and put in "copious amounts of time," said program manager Dan Bajorek.

"We also have a volunteer director who oversees the volunteer drivers (anywhere from four to six people) our agency provides to clients who require assistance in getting to places such as hospital visits outside of the county. Again these people are quite dedicated in providing this invaluable service to our community that lacks public transportation in getting to destinations," he said.

"Overall volunteers are critical to how Haliburton County functions and shows the tremendous support that fellow citizens are willing to provide to each other no matter whether you're running a non-profit agency, a musical festival or pond hockey. It is what makes this community vital, caring and responsive to the needs of others."

Point in Time usually honours its volunteers at its annual general meeting in June.

**Volunteer  
Dental Outreach**

**FOR HALIBURTON COUNTY**

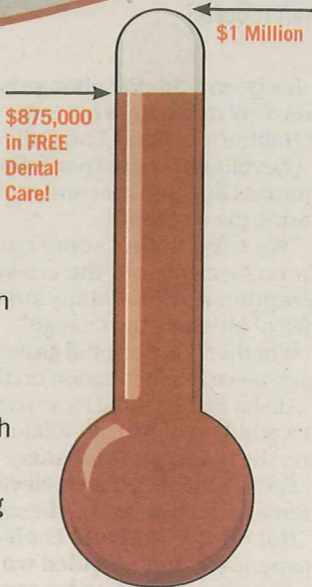


*Thank You!*

**Thank you** to all the Volunteers who have contributed to providing free dental care to low income residents of Haliburton County.

Your care and compassion is appreciated by all the patients you have helped and the Board of Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County.

**Together you are improving the lives of hundreds of people in our community.**



This ad has been purchased personally by the Board of Directors