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Screening saves lives - hotline now live

The Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program (SMRCP) is helping residents throughout North Simcoe and Muskoka get screened for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer through its Cancer Screening Hotline.

The Cancer Screening Hotline connects residents with appropriate health resources to provide education on cancer screening, and if applicable, get the necessary screening tests.

“Cancer mortality rates for colorectal, breast and cervical cancers have been declining over the years thanks in part to an increase in screening but we still have a long way to go,” says Dr. Danusia Gzik, Primary Care Lead, Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program. “We know that cancer screening saves lives and that’s why it’s important for people to talk to their healthcare provider about getting screened for cancer.”

While the Cancer Screening Hotline is not new to the SMRCP – in the past, the RSVP initiative invited women to call the hotline during Breast Cancer Awareness month to book screening tests – its year-round access and expanded scope is.

“The RSVP initiative identified barriers to cancer screening, particularly with patients who have no primary care provider or those who were unable to see a primary care provider due to distance,” says Dr. Gzik. “It was obvious to us that there was a need for an expanded and sustainable cancer screening service to educate and navigate our area residents to cancer screening options available close to home.”

The Cancer Screening Hotline services can be accessed by calling the toll-free number (1-866-608-6910). Calls are taken Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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