

Back to the Future

Join us for a special event celebrating 130 years
of public health in the Kawarthas

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Co-hosted by the Peterborough
Historical Society and
Peterborough Public Health.



Peterborough
Public Health



Peterborough
Historical
Society

Peterborough Public Health celebrated 130 years with their “**Back to the Future**” Event on Saturday, February 9 - where attendees learned about Local Public Health’s History and Future.

Dr. Garry Humphreys, former local Medical Officer of Health, shared his knowledge of the fascinating history of the local contribution to global polio prevention in the 1950s. In that time-frame, 9,000 Canadians contracted polio, yeilding 500 deaths. This topic is especially relevant considering polio-like outbreaks in north america last fall.

Polio was a serious threat in North America throughout the 20th century, and still remains active in other parts of the world. Thanks to mass immunization efforts, Public Health Officials have been able to essentially eliminate polio on this continent, and they continue to give the vaccination to children to prevent its resurgence.

Dr. Humphreys was the local Medical Officer of Health from 1984-1986 and 1991-2008. His presentation explained how doctors in the local area were among the first to use the polio vaccine in the 1950s. The success of the vaccine led to its eradication in the western world.

Polio is a crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease. It spreads from person to person invading the brain and spinal cord and causing paralysis. There is no cure, so the strategy to eradicate polio is based on preventing infection by immunizing every child to stop transmission and ultimately make the world polio free.

In 1988, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution for the worldwide eradication of polio. Since 1979, the International Rotary Club has helped immunize 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. Today, polio continues with significant circulation in three countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria.

For more historical background, please visit:

www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/130.

Immunization Notices from Public Health

*Peterborough Public Health Mailed 1,900 Notices
Regarding Incomplete Student Immunization Records*

Peterborough Public Health (PPH) is asking all parents to ensure they’ve submitted their child’s current immunization records to avoid school suspensions later this year.

“Many parents don’t realize it’s their responsibility to keep their local public health agency informed every time their child receives a vaccination so our records are kept up to date,” reported Edwina Dusome, Manager of Infectious Disease Programs. “We do not get this information from health care providers.”

Even though their child’s immunizations may be up-to-date, public health records may not be. The good news for parents is that immunization information can be easily provided over the phone or online. Parents are asked to please call the PPH at 705-743-1000, ext. 139 to update their child’s records, or visit the Public Health site at www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca and click on “Update Your Child’s Record”.

PPH will be mailing more than 1,900 notices to parents of students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 this month. The notices indicate if any vaccinations are needed. Parents are asked to check their child’s record to see if these vaccines have been received. Under provincial legislation, students will be suspended from school until their immunization is up to date. If our records are incorrect, we will rescind the suspension notice immediately upon receipt of the missing information.

For children who are not up to date and require immunizations, parents can take them to their health care provider’s office to receive the required immunization(s). However, parents will still need to provide that information to PPH so it can update your child’s records.

Nobody would dream of sending their children to school with peanut butter sandwiches or with any kind of weapon - obviously to avoid harm to other students. So why would anyone choose to send their un-immunized child to school? There are only a few rare instances where children have bone-fide medical reasons which prevent them from being immunized.

Everyone else should be immunized to prevent the spread of infectious diseases which can lead to serious, on-going health problems and death.