

Swan's Island Health Clinic Opens to Enthusiastic Support

SWAN'S ISLAND — The Swan's Island Health Clinic opened its doors to the island population on Nov. 15.

Last year the residents of Swan's Island voted to approve the expenditure of \$200,000 to refurbish the main floor of an existing building into a modern health clinic.

Approximately 100 islanders came by the clinic's open house for coffee and food, a tour and to take advantage of a wide range of health screenings and doctor visits.

The clinic opened at 6 a.m. so that lobstermen could receive their flu shots from the early bird team of Sharon Daley, the Maine Sea Coast Mission nurse who is usually stationed on the *Sunbeam V*, and Donna Wiegler the clinic's volunteer phlebotomist.

This annual screening clinic is the fourth done on Swan's Island, but in the past it has taken place aboard the *Sunbeam V*.

The new space and the involvement of the Island Health Committee allowed for easier access and allows more services to be offered.

As the day progressed, Daley and Wiegler were joined by a



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Among those attending the opening of the new Swan's Island Health Clinic on Nov. 15 were (from left) Donna Wiegler, Swan's Island Health Committee; Julian Kuffler, MD, MPH, Mount Desert Island Hospital; Dexter Lee, Swan's Island selectman; Sharon Daley, RN, Maine Sea Coast Mission and the Rev. Gary DeLong, executive director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

Mount Desert Island Hospital team led by Dr. Julian Kuffler and his associate, Dr. Michael Heniser,

both from the Community Health Clinic in Southwest Harbor. Together the team administered flu

shots and blood draws for cholesterol profiles, fasting blood sugars, PSA screening, thyroid screenings as well as free screenings for skin cancer and blood pressure checks.

Kuffler also saw patients for regular visits in the new, bright soundproof exam rooms.

Those attending the open house ranged in age from 9 months to 93 years of age.

The Health Clinic needs \$54,000 for furnishings and medical equipment. The Maine Sea Coast Mission has agreed to provide 50 percent of this cost or \$27,000, if the remainder can be raised. Thus far, about \$12,000 has been raised from island donors. Interested donors should send their contribution to the Maine Sea Coast Mission and designate that their contribution is to be used for the Swan's Island Health Clinic.