

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hospital patients, staff enjoy work of local artists thanks to new Arts Council of Northumberland exhibit

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, April 3rd, 2012 – Thanks to a new Arts Council of Northumberland initiative, watercolors, acrylics and photographs are among the different art forms now on display along Sumac Street, on the main floor of Northumberland Hills Hospital.

In place at the Hospital through May 9th, 2012, the colourful and engaging exhibit is a joint venture between the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation and the Art Council of Northumberland's *Art in Public Spaces* program.

Championed by Heather Roy, Council member, artist and local teacher, the program is one of the Council's latest achievements against a mission "to encourage creativity and raise the visibility of the artist and the arts community through advocacy, communication and leadership."

"We are very happy to bring these pieces to NHH," said Ms. Roy. "In the context of our Council's vision and mission, NHH is a natural venue for County artists because it is frequented by Northumberland residents and because of the Hospital's strong commitment to serving its community."

Seven local artists are featured in the current Sumac Street exhibit, including Dawn Miller, Christine Benson, Heather Roy, Judith Kreps Hawkins, Pat Stanley, Bill Hornbostel and Kathryn McHolm. Visitors can enjoy them in place or, if inspired by the work, consider purchasing a piece for their home or business. Prices range from \$100 upward.

The *Art in Public Spaces* program was initiated in the fall of 2010 with the Northumberland County building at 600 William Street in Cobourg, where artwork is also presently on display. Other exhibits locations in the region are also in the works and new venue suggestions are welcome.

For more information on the artwork or the program itself, see the Arts Council of Northumberland's website at www.northumberlandarts.ca.

For more information about NHH please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or igillard@nhh.ca.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, and obstetrical care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care, rehabilitation and palliative care. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.