



## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Unusual delivery at NHH**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, May 1st, 2012** – Thirteen mallard ducklings entertained staff, patients and volunteers today when they emerged from their nest in the outdoor Rotary Courtyard at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH). At 10:30 AM the traditional Brahms Lullaby (played on the overhead paging system for each new birth at the local hospital) rang through the NHH corridors to welcome the ducklings.

Discovered several weeks ago by staff and patients, the nest was strategically built in a well-camouflaged spot. With regular updates shared with staff in the weekly newsletter, and interest from local and national media, the hospital let nature take its course.

Unfortunately, the enclosed outdoor courtyard that attracted the mother duck to NHH also proved to be her biggest challenge. The ducklings need to get to water shortly after their birth--but they can't fly. Mallards are considered a protected species and, without the necessary permit from federal authorities, they cannot be moved.

With permit in hand, NHH called on Gord Ure of Wildlife Solutions north of Cobourg to safely capture the duck and the ducklings, and release them into a more suitable habitat.

"It went very well!" said Gord, with a grin of relief, when the duck and all 13 ducklings had been captured. "I had quite an audience!"

Within 45 minutes Wildlife Solutions had released the family safely into the Cobourg harbour and watched them take their first swim.

For more information please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@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](http://www.nhh.ca).

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