

For Immediate Release

Monday, April 24, 2006

Region Conference of Hospital Auxiliaries held in Cobourg

The Spring Conference of the hospital auxiliaries belonging to HAAO Region 7 is being held this year in Cobourg on Wednesday, April 26. Representing areas as far west as Pickering/Ajax, as far north as Port Perry and Haliburton, as far east as Campbellford, Region 7 is comprised of 8 hospitals of various sizes and missions. The Spring Conference, whose theme this year is "Healing and Volunteering," rotates among the geographical areas of the region. This year the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary is hosting the event.

The purpose of the conference is educational, bringing auxiliary members together to network about problems and solutions and to hear speakers on a variety of topics. This year there is a new feature – the recognition of Provincial Life Members from around the region. These PLMs were installed in November at the annual HAAO Convention, and for the first time their service is being recognized in their home region.

The honourees will be piped in to the meeting by local piper, Bill Ruttle, introduced by Region 7 Chair, Jill Haskins of Bowmanville and will enjoy the applause 140 friends and colleagues. Among them will be Northumberland Hills members, Margaret Gear, Laura McCracken and Emily Nichol. They and honourees from other areas will be guests at lunch to be served at the conference site, the Cobourg Best Western Inn.

Other dignitaries expected to attend are Deputy Mayor Bob Spooner, NHH CEO and President Joan Ross and NHH Foundation Chair Bob MacCoubrey.

The program will feature round table discussions on common concerns and presentations by Robin Mossing, an Advanced Practice Wound Consultant, and Magda Rigo, past Chair of the Professional Administrators of Volunteer Resources. She will speak on volunteer recruitment and retention.

The Spring Conference is an opportunity for busy volunteers to step out of their traditional roles, share ideas and gain perspective on their place in the changing world of health care.

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For further information, contact Patricia Fenner, 905-377-8049. If photo coverage is a possibility, the PLM ceremony will be at 10:00 a.m., the luncheon with local dignitaries at 12:00 noon, in the Ballroom at the Best Western.