For more information, please contact:
Kelly Isfan, President and CEO
Campbellford Memorial Hospital
705.632.2001
kisfan@cmh.ca

Joan Ross, President and CEO
Northumberland Hills Hospital
905.377.7755
jross@nhh.ca

For Immediate Release: September 20, 2006

Campbellford Memorial Hospital and Northumberland Hills Hospital Boards Build on History of Cooperation

Members of Campbellford Memorial Hospital and Northumberland Hills Hospital Board of Directors participated in a joint Board retreat yesterday to further strengthen the existing relationship between the two hospitals. Recognizing that cooperation and communication between the neighbouring hospitals will help ensure their long-term viability and presence in the community, the meeting provided Board members with an opportunity to get to know one another better and to generate further interest in continued cooperation with each other. They also identified some principles on how the two groups would work together in the future.

 "The nature of health care is changing," noted Northumberland Hills Hospital Board Chair Sid Trevail, adding: "As Board members, we have an opportunity to define our future and embrace the changes that today are shaping how health care could be delivered in the future. This gathering was a forum for both hospitals to demonstrate their commitment to change and to identify opportunities to continue to deliver effective and patient focused care in partnership with one another."

Campbellford Memorial Hospital Board chair Glenn Dixon agreed, "We're all committed to moving forward with sound planning and programs that serve the needs of our communities. This meeting provided both boards with an opportunity to get to know one another better, to identify some common interests and to recognize that we have a shared willingness to work together. Our intent is to make both organizations stronger, providing high-quality, patient-centred care."

Campbellford Memorial Hospital and Northumberland Hills Hospital now share some skilled resources and technology systems, including a Picture Archive and Communication System (PACS) and financial software. Potential opportunities for shared resources identified as part of the discussion included recruitment and standardized systems.

The outcome was agreement to create a joint board sub-committee with representation from each hospital board to begin the process of looking for practical areas of cooperation. Ultimately, there is a desire on the part of both hospitals to identify shared resources that will enable them to invest more resources in front-line care.

The Northumberland Hills Hospital opened in 2003 and is a 137 bed hospital delivering a broad range of primary and secondary services including medical/surgical care, complex care/long term care, rehabilitation beds, palliative, obstetrical and intensive care unit beds. The hospital serves approximately 56,000 residents, catering to a mixed urban and rural population from west Northumberland County, including the communities of Cobourg, Municipality of Port Hope, Hamilton Township, Cramahe and

Alniwick/Haldimand Townships. NHH sponsors Community Mental Heath Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team that serves the county. For more information, visit the web site at www.nhh.ca

Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) is a 34-bed health care facility located in Trent Hills, serving approximately 30,000 Northumberland, Peterborough and Hastings County residents as well as a large seasonal population of cottagers and tourists enjoying the beautiful Kawartha Lakes Region and the Trent River System. The Hospital's 24-hour Emergency Department has a volume of approximately 22,000 visits each year. To ensure comprehensive, co-ordinated, patient and family-centred care that meets local needs, the Campbellford Memorial Hospital has evolved to include: Campbellford Memorial Health Centre; Campbellford Memorial Multicare Lodge; and Campbellford Memorial Community Mental Health Centre. For more information about the Campbellford Memorial Hospital, visit its web site at www.cmh.ca.

Both hospitals are members of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). The LHIN includes Durham Region, Kawartha Lakes, the Haliburton Highlands, Northumberland County, Peterborough County and some of Scarborough. LHINs are responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services to make it easier to access the care they need. This includes hospitals, community care access centres, home care, long-term care, mental health, community health centres as well as addiction and community support services.

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