



# NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

*inspiring strength, dignity and compassion*

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

### **Northumberland Hills Hospital Receives Government Approval for MRI Services**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, December 22, 2006** – MPP Lou Rinaldi, on behalf of The Hon George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care, visited the Northumberland Hills Hospital on Friday December 22, 2006 to announce government approval for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner for the local community hospital. In front of a standing room only audience, local MPP Lou Rinaldi, who has been instrumental in ensuring health care services are available locally, spoke on behalf of Mr. Smitherman who was unable to attend in person as scheduled.

MRI is a critical tool for imaging diseases of the breast, central nervous system and joints. It will provide enhanced access to MRI service for residents of this community, particularly for inpatients. Northumberland County has a higher than average proportion of the population aged 65 and over. These seniors require more healthcare services and greater access to MRI services.

“With both CT and MRI available locally, it will be possible for our doctors to use the appropriate diagnostic tool to answer the clinical question at hand, therefore avoiding radiation exposure to some people” says Dr. Frank Marrocco, Chief of Radiology at Northumberland Hills Hospital.

“I’m thrilled by this surprise announcement,” says Joan Ross, President and CEO of Northumberland Hills Hospital.

“We submitted a proposal for MRI services to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care recently and had hoped it would be approved. This early Christmas present has taken us completely by surprise!,” says Ross.

Added Board Chair Sid Trevail, “We owe Lou Rinaldi a debt of gratitude for bringing MRI services to our community and thank the Hon. Smitherman for this announcement today.”

An MRI scanner is expected to cost \$2.5 million, funds that will have to be raised locally. The operating costs are funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. During the planning of this hospital, space was built into the existing diagnostic imaging suite that is suitable for housing an MRI. While this space is currently used for film storage, conversion to digital imaging means that it will not be needed beyond 2008.

For further information, please contact Joan Ross, President and CEO, Northumberland Hills Hospital at 905 377-7755 or [jross@nhh.ca](mailto:jross@nhh.ca).

**About Northumberland Hills Hospital** - The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The 137-bed hospital delivers a broad range of services, including medical/surgical care, complex/long term care, rehabilitation, palliative care, obstetrical care and intensive care. NHH also sponsors a Community Mental Health Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland is comprised of the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs over 500 people and is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca).