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NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prescription for Excellence – Local Doctor Chosen as 2007 Ontario Family Physician of the Year, Eastern Region

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, September 10, 2007 – Northumberland County family physician Dr. Michael Bayer has been chosen as the 2007 recipient of the Ontario Family Physician of the Year Award, Eastern Region.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) created the award to recognize the outstanding dedication of family physicians to their patients, their community, their profession and the OCFP. The province is divided into six regions and Family Physicians of the Year are selected from each.

Ms. Jan Kasperski, Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario College of Family Physicians visited the Northumberland Hills Hospital on Monday evening to recognize Dr. Bayer and deliver his award in person.

A partner with the Cobourg Medical Clinic on University Avenue in Cobourg, Dr. Bayer came to Northumberland 10 years ago from Moose Factory, Ontario.

"It is extremely rewarding for me to be recognized for working in a profession that is truly a passion for me. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the College for giving me this honour, when there are so many equally worthy candidates right here in our area," said Dr. Bayer.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians is a provincial, voluntary organization of 7,600 family physicians that supports the continuing professional development of its members.

The College strives to improve the health of Ontarians by promoting high standards of medical education and care in family practice, by contributing to public understanding of healthy living, by supporting ready access to family physician services, and by encouraging research and disseminating knowledge about family medicine.

"The residents of Northumberland are lucky to have such a dedicated and caring professional supporting the community. On behalf of Northumberland Hills Hospital, I congratulate Dr. Bayer on his well-deserved achievement," said Northumberland Hills Hospital Medical Chief of Staff, Dr. David Broderick.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@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 <u>www.nhh.ca</u>.

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