



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

inspiring strength, dignity and compassion

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eighty local high school students gather at hospital for Health Care Career Symposium

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Friday, December 14, 2007 – “Opportunities abound in the broad range of health care professions.” This was the message local high school students heard over and over again throughout the day-long career symposium held December 13 at Northumberland Hills Hospital.

A partnership between the Workforce Development Board's Passport to Prosperity Program and Northumberland Hills Hospital, the fourth annual event attracted more than 80 students. Combining presentations, question and answer sessions and tours, the symposium permitted the students to hear first-hand from a physician, registered nurse, dietitian, respiratory therapist, social worker and many others working in careers they could pursue when their secondary school studies are complete.

Asked by one student about the courses she should take to successfully obtain a spot in a Canadian nursing school, NHH RN John Hobart responded, with a grin: “Science, science and more science!”

He added a quick caution, however: “It’s important to be well-rounded in your studies as well. To be successful in the medical profession, particularly in the front line, you need to know how to deal with people. Good interpersonal skills are a must, as you need to know how to connect with others.”

The message was echoed by Dr. David Broderick, family physician and Chief of Staff at Northumberland Hills. Speaking on the opportunities for students interested in a career in medicine, he emphasized the importance of being able to work in a team.

“Medicine requires years of academic education,” he warned, “but it’s a very broad and rewarding field, with lots of choice within the profession depending on your interest.” Family practice, specialty practices such as orthopedics, research and teaching are all options one can pursue with a medical degree.

Income, he cautioned, should not be any student's primary motivator. "One can earn a good income in medicine," he confirmed, "but if you don't enjoy what you're doing, and you don't want to work with people, it's not for you."

An occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech language pathologist, pharmacist, medical radiation technologist and a medical laboratory technologist were among the other professions represented at the symposium.

"Students and teachers from eight schools joined us this year," said Elizabeth Vosburgh, NHH Director of Human Resources. "With participation from Campbellford to Brighton to Newcastle our hospital's whole catchment area and beyond was represented. Thanks to the many professionals who donated their time, we were able to introduce these students to most of the professions represented here at NHH: whether they are interested in becoming a dietitian, a medical laboratory technologist or a pharmacist, there was something for them to learn today."

"I'm very pleased," added Anne Castle, Passport to Prosperity Program Coordinator. "The room was full, the presenters were inspiring and we had a lot of questions. This should get many local students thinking about options in the health care profession, and that's what it's all about."

For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact Jennifer Gillard, Director of Corporate Communications, 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 www.nhh.ca.