



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

inspiring strength, dignity and compassion

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northumberland Hills Hospital recognizes Auxiliary President Patricia Fenner and the “family” of community volunteers at National Volunteer Week celebration

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, April 29, 2008 – National Volunteer Week is held across Canada each April to honour the many people who donate their time and energy to community causes. Northumberland Hills Hospital recognized the contributions of its community volunteers earlier today with a celebration in the Main Street Bistro.

“NHH has an exceptionally large volunteer family and we are recognizing the important contribution of all this afternoon,” said Joan Ross, President and CEO.

The first group to be recognized was the NHH Auxiliary, one of the most active hospital auxiliaries in the province with almost 600 active and associate members. Recognizable by their burgundy vests, the Auxiliary volunteers contribute close to 60,000 hours of service each year to NHH. They are also substantial fund-raisers, raising funds through the Little Treasure Shop in the hospital, Petticoat Lane, a second-hand shop located at the Mid-Town Mall, and through special events, such as their new Wine-Tasting in the Park, Tag Days and, also new in 2008, the Polar Dip into Lake Ontario.

“The NHH Foundation is the second “branch” of our volunteer family tree,” said Ross in her remarks. “The Foundation shoulders the significant responsibility of raising the funds to supply the capital equipment used in the hospital. Supported by a small but very busy staff, our Foundation volunteers raise the bulk of the funds that permit us to buy the state-of-the-art equipment that we have in this facility today... large equipment, like the new MR machine (a fund-raising goal still in progress), to the smaller but still very essential equipment, such as defibrillators and IV pumps. We are extremely grateful for their remarkable team of dedicated volunteers.”

The third volunteer group recognized by the hospital at the April 29 event was the Board of Directors. Said Ross: “While the decisions of the Board are carried out by the administration and the staff, it is the Board that bears the ultimate responsibility for the development of hospital policy, decisions regarding the hospital’s future and monitoring performance. They too are volunteers, many with active professional commitments of

their own. The purpose of today's event is to recognize each and every one of our volunteers: Foundation, Board and Auxiliary. As I've said before, we are truly in our volunteers' debt."

Together with messages from hospital staff on the many ways volunteers have made a particular difference in the past year, the event also offered an opportunity for the hospital to recognize the significant efforts of outgoing Auxiliary President Patricia Fenner.

Fenner will conclude her third consecutive term (one two-year term, and two one-year terms) as Auxiliary President in June, 2008, when she will hand over the post to the NHH Auxiliary's Vice President, Dale Hodge. Commenting on the many hours she has selflessly dedicated to the role in the last four years, Board Chair Sid Trevail quoted Past President Yvonne Green to describe the breadth of Fenner's contributions. "Patricia embraces the Presidency of the Auxiliary with vision and purpose. She is a 'hands on' manager and immerses herself in all facets of the organization. She is relentless in her pursuit of perfection whether it be patient services, streamlining the [Auxiliary] Board, record keeping, fundraising initiatives or recruitment."

A sketch by local artist Barry King was presented to Patricia Fenner as a memento of her dedicated contribution to NHH. "Fittingly," Sid Trevail pointed out, "she is larger than life in the drawing's foreground."

With characteristic humour, Patricia Fenner concluded her remarks with: "It's been a slice!" Her many colleagues demonstrated their respect with a long and sincere standing ovation.

For further 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 acute care hospital delivers a broad range of core 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 comprises 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.