



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

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NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hospital welcomes the return of Dr. David Moorsom to west Northumberland, internist specialized in palliative medicine and elder care

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, August 18, 2008 – Though opportunity led him to several diverse regions around the globe, Dr. David Moorsom never forgot his brief stint as a General Practitioner in west Northumberland in the 1970s.

Earlier this summer, Dr. Moorsom returned to the area to put down new roots and share some of the expertise gathered throughout his interesting career as an internist specializing in palliative medicine and elder care.

Educated in the UK in the 1970s, Dr. Moorsom was drawn to Canada after graduation through a friendship he struck up with the late Dr. John Rose. Prior to returning to university to complete a specialty in internal medicine, Dr. Moorsom practiced family medicine with Dr. Rose and his colleagues at the Cobourg Clinic on University Avenue.

With Women's College Hospital in Toronto for 13 years, Dr. Moorsom went on to serve as Chief of Medicine for the development of the Markham Stouffville hospital and, later, Chief of Medicine for York County Hospital, now South Lake Regional Health Centre.

In the mid 1990s, an opportunity in the Caribbean presented itself, and Dr. Moorsom and his wife, Dr. Kathleen Brooks, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, packed their belongings into storage and moved to the tiny island of Montserrat. While he accepted the island post for the specific purpose of establishing a new hospital, Montserrat's previously dormant Soufriere Hills volcano chose the same time (July 18, 1995) to erupt. The capital city was destroyed, two-thirds of the island's small population was forced to flee and the hospital project was cancelled.

After 10 months in Montserrat, Dr. Moorsom and his wife returned to the UK where he spent a year working in palliative medicine before crossing the Atlantic once again to accept positions (administrative and academic) in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In 1999, London beckoned again, and Dr. Moorsom returned to the city for a new project in hospice care. With the exception of a brief hiatus for work in Pristina, Kosovo, at the

end of the Kosovo war, Dr. Moorsom continued to focus on the area of palliative medicine almost exclusively, eventually taking a consulting job in London, which involved work in the community, at a 19 bed-independent hospice and a 600-bed hospital.

Says Dr. Moorsom: "I knew we'd come back to Canada at some point, but I didn't know where. I always loved this part of the province, and here we are."

With the responsibilities of his last, fast-paced post still fresh in his mind, Dr. Moorsom and Dr. Brooks are both looking forward to a somewhat more relaxed pace in Northumberland County. 'Relaxed,' by their standards, however, is proving advantageous for patients in the area. Already Dr. Moorsom has taken temporary space in the Ambulatory Care department at NHH from which he can provide consultation services to local physicians on elder care cases. Dr. Brooks, at the same time, has begun work with NHH's Lakeshore Community Mental Health services to offer, also on a consulting basis, psychiatric services to local youth. She is also seeing children and their families in the community.

Says NHH President and CEO Joan Ross of the couple's decision to settle in Northumberland County, and continue to work in their respective fields: "We're very pleased. Their experience and expertise fills a real need in local patient care."

What type of practice does Dr. Moorsom want to build? "I'm going to let the community needs dictate that," he replies. "I am offering internal medicine consultation for palliative medicine and geriatric medicine for in-patients at NHH, local long-term care homes and in the community. I'm not at all averse to going directly to the homes of patients as it is often the more appropriate environment in which to 'sort things out'. I am also happy doing some primary (general medicine) care as well. Many Canadian specialists today are super specialists... they look at one organ system. Patients—as a result—float among these specialists. Given the many inter-related problems that people tend to have later in life, I prefer to take a more holistic approach to my patients. I like to consider, in consultation with the GP, the whole person, and try, with them, often in the later stages of their life, to come up with realistic care that is right for that individual."

Patients seeking a consultation with Dr. Moorsom require a referral from their family physician. A letter was recently issued to community physicians with the necessary contact details at the hospital: 905-372-6811, ext. 3063.

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 acute care hospital delivers a broad range of services, including emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, complex/long-term care, rehabilitation, palliative care and obstetrical care. A variety of ambulatory care clinics are also offered at NHH. In addition to these, 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 close to 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.