



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

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NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Electronic newborn registration service comes to NHH

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Friday, January 23, 2009 – Parents of babies born at Northumberland Hills Hospital will soon be able to benefit from a new online service that lets them register their baby's birth, get a birth certificate and request their child's Social Insurance Number all at the same time.

A joint project between ServiceOntario (<http://www.serviceontario.ca/>) and Service Canada (<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/>), the initiative began rolling out in selected municipalities in Ontario in the fall of 2007. Currently 60 communities are participating, with a goal to have the newborn registration service available across the province by the end of 2009. Northumberland Hills Hospital is set to go online at 12:00 midnight on Monday, January 26.

In Ontario, a successful birth registration relies on two independent parties submitting information about the birth to the Office of the Registrar General. These parties are: the designated health professional involved in the birth (e.g., a physician, midwife or nurse), and the parents.

As of January 26, NHH health care professionals who attend at the birth of a child will be electronically submitting the necessary Notice of Birth form. At the same time, parents of infants born at NHH will receive a Newborn Registration Service postcard with instructions on how to complete their own Statement of Live Birth form online at www.ServiceOntario.ca/newborn. Parents are advised to register their baby within 30 days of birth, so they may obtain essential identity documents; health care professionals are required to submit their form within two business days.

According to ServiceOntario, increased ease, convenience and speed are the benefits offered to parents by the new online tool. The birth will be registered in less time and parents can use the online service at any time, day or night. Also, if parents apply for a birth certificate or a Social Insurance Number at the time of registration, they will receive those documents faster as well.

Brenda Weir, Nursing Program Director for Acute Services at NHH, and the Director responsible for the day-to-day operation of NHH's Birthing Suites, says: "Colleagues at hospitals where the service is already available report that parents are very appreciative of the new system. New parents are busy! The more we can do to make life easier for them as they welcome their new family member into the world, the better!"

If parents do not have access to online services at their home, they will be directed to access the Internet at any ServiceOntario counter location or at a local library. Paper Statement of Live Birth forms will continue to be available for parents on request, but for the reasons noted above, the new online tool is the recommended format.

As in the past, there is no charge to parents for either the birth registration or the Social Insurance Number request; birth certificates continue to come with a cost of \$25 (for the short form certificate) and \$35 (for the long form).

Parents who have questions or require assistance with the registration process can contact ServiceOntario toll-free at 1-800-461-2156.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or igillard@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.