



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

inspiring strength, dignity and compassion

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Michael Green recognized for outstanding community service with Ontario Medical Association's Glenn Sawyer Service Award

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, June 8, 2009 – NHH is pleased to share news of an important award presented to a dedicated west Northumberland community physician at a meeting at Hospital last week.

Well known obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Michael Green was honoured by his peers on Monday, June 1, with an early morning presentation of the Glenn Sawyer Service Award from the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). Dr. Ray Tesluk presented the award to Dr. Green on the OMA's behalf.

Established in 1972 in honour of Dr. Glenn Sawyer, the longest-serving General Secretary of the OMA, the award is presented annually to a maximum of 15 individuals from the province of Ontario. Nominated by their peers, candidates must have rendered significant service to the OMA, medical profession or community.

Said Dr. David Broderick, Chief of Staff at NHH: "For community hospitals, the active involvement of community physicians is essential to quality patient care. Dr. Michael Green's service to NHH is a legend in and of itself, both in the area of obstetrics and gynecology. The Hospital is very pleased to see Dr. Green recognized as not only an outstanding individual in our community, but, in fact, a leader within the province."

The story of Dr. Green's practice in the community is, to a large degree, the story of obstetrical and gynecological care in west Northumberland. As explained by Dr. Paul Caldwell in his nomination form, Dr. Green moved to the area in 1982. At the time, obstetrical support in the community was offered exclusively by family physicians, with operative (caesarian section) back-up done by one of the general surgeons. Gynecological care was done by family physicians, with operative gynecology performed by itinerant surgeons from Peterborough, who would come to the local hospitals for day-long surgical lists.

Soon after moving to the community, Dr. Green obtained privileges at both of the two hospitals in the area (the predecessors to today's Northumberland Hills Hospital) and quickly changed the way both obstetrics and gynecology were offered to the community.

Until a second obstetrician was recruited in recent years (Dr. Green has now been joined by obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Asiya Hameed), he made himself exclusively available for obstetrical call, supporting the family physicians who were the primary caregivers for obstetrical patients. Alone, on a 24-hour basis, 365 days a year, he responded to calls for urgent assistance and consultation from family physicians, as well as seeing obstetrical and gynecological patients in consultation in the office. Previously, family physicians had no access to consultation or experienced obstetrical expertise in the community, making his arrival an important development in local care.

In addition, Dr. Green, who had been trained extensively in the use of ultrasound both in obstetrics and general ultrasonography, brought this technology to west Northumberland. This was a very valuable diagnostic resource to the family physicians and specialists in the community and revolutionized the area's diagnostic abilities. Dr. Green continues to offer regular ultrasound clinics through the Diagnostic Imaging department at the Hospital, and respond on an on-call basis for emergency cases both in obstetrics and the Emergency Department.

An additional career achievement noted in the nomination package prepared by Dr. Paul Caldwell is Dr. Green's personal contribution to the advancement of midwifery services. Said Helen Brenner, NHH's Vice President, Patient Services, and Chief Nursing Executive: "Today, NHH boasts a strong relationship with 13 community midwives who, together, perform close to 15% of the deliveries at our Hospital supported, in part, by Dr. Green's consultative service. An active participant in ongoing educational development, Dr. Green also played a leadership role in NHH's successful implementation of the MORE^{OB} program, now in its third year." MORE^{OB}, which stands for Managing Obstetrical Risk Efficiently, is a continuous patient safety improvement program for physicians, midwives and nurses.

Said Dr. Caldwell, in the conclusion to his nomination of Dr. Green for the Glenn Sawyer Service Award: "This man's commitment to his community and to his fellow physicians is immense. The care that he has offered to thousands of mothers and their infants is exemplary. The gratitude that we as family physicians feel for the privilege of working with him is heartfelt and genuine."

For further information, or to arrange a photo opportunity, please contact Jennifer Gillard, Director, Communications and Community Engagement, at jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – 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.