

Patients, staff enjoy work of local artists thanks to new Arts Council of Northumberland exhibit

Thanks to a new Arts Council of Northumberland initiative, watercolors, acrylics and photographs are among the different art forms now on display along Sumac Street, on the main floor of Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH).

In place at the Hospital through May 9th, 2012, the colourful and engaging exhibit is a joint venture between the NHH Foundation and the Arts Council of Northumberland's *Art in Public Spaces* program.

Championed by Heather Roy, Council member, artist and local teacher, the program is one of the Council's latest achievements against a mission "to encourage creativity and raise the visibility of the artist and the arts community through advocacy, communication and leadership."

"We are very happy to bring these pieces to NHH," said Ms. Roy. "In the context of our Council's vision and mission, NHH is a natural venue for County artists because it is frequented by Northumberland residents and because of the Hospital's strong commitment to serving its community."

Seven local artists are featured in the NHH exhibit, including Christine Benson, Judith Kreps Hawkins, Bill Hornbostel, Kathryn McHolm, Dawn Miller, Heather Roy, and Pat Stanley. Visitors can enjoy them in place or, if inspired by the work, consider purchasing a piece for their home or business. Prices range from \$100 upward.

The *Art in Public Spaces* program was initiated in the fall of 2010 with the Northumberland County building at 600 William Street in Cobourg, where artwork is also presently on display. Other exhibit locations in the region are in the works and new venue suggestions are welcome. For more information on the artwork or the program itself, see the Arts Council of Northumberland's website at www.northumberlandarts.ca.



Bill Hornbostel and Heather Roy are two of the seven local artists whose work is on display at NHH this spring thanks to a joint NHH Foundation/Arts Council of Northumberland initiative.

"We are very happy to bring these pieces to NHH... NHH is a natural venue for County artists because it is frequented by Northumberland residents and because of the Hospital's strong commitment to serving its community."
Heather Roy, Arts Council of Northumberland

Celebrating NHH's generous volunteers

Volunteer Canada reports that over 12 million Canadians presently volunteer their time and talents in this country. At NHH it often seems that some of the most generous souls are here in west Northumberland!

National Volunteer Week, celebrated this year from April 16th to 21st, provides NHH a chance to express gratitude to the talented people who support it through the year, be it through service on our Board of Directors, with our NHH Auxiliary or by raising funds for needed capital equipment through our NHH Foundation.

This year's recognition event will take place at NHH on April 19th. A celebration of volunteers and volunteering at the Hospital, it will include a special tribute to one individual - Marg Gear - who has volunteered her time at NHH since 1949!

Watch for more on our April 19th volunteer recognition event in the May edition of *In Touch*. Interested in becoming an NHH volunteer? Please see www.nhh.ca for more information.

Quality Improvement Plan 2012-13

*Message from Robert Biron,
President and CEO*

In 2010, the Ontario Government passed the Excellent Care for All Act (ECFAA). One of the ways that ECFAA is helping hospitals meet their community's expectations regarding quality, patient safety and accountability is through the public reporting of annual **Quality Improvement Plans**, or QIPs.

NHH's first QIP (2011-12) was published at this time last year on our public website (www.nhh.ca). On April 1st, NHH released its second annual QIP for 2012-13, together with a progress report against our first-year Plan.

Overall, NHH had a very good year – we implemented many new initiatives and continued to perform well in terms of quality, wait times and patient safety. Our new Plan builds on this work, with the following identified as key goals for 2012-13:

- improved hand hygiene practices;
- safe mobility for our patients to reduce falls;
- reducing wait times and improving patient satisfaction in the Emergency Department; and,
- reducing readmission rates.

Grounded in a philosophy of continuous improvement, NHH's quality goals are monitored closely throughout the year by our program committees, management team, medical staff and our Board. With a collective focus on specific, shared goals, we look forward to building on the past year's progress and continuing to enhance quality at NHH.

Upcoming Foundation Events

Rona Maynard - How I Beat Depression

Join the former editor of *Chatelaine* magazine for a passionate, candid and disarmingly funny presentation about mental illness, **Thursday, May 10th, 2012**, Best Western Cobourg Inn & Convention Centre, 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$20, now available at the Foundation office, the Best Western or online at www.nhh.ca

10th Annual Baskets of Hope raffle

It's the 10th and final year for the Kennedy sisters' **Baskets of Hope** raffle. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5 and available at the Foundation office or locations around the community. The draw will be held on Friday, May 11th, just before Mother's Day!

For more information on these and other events visit the Foundation section at www.nhh.ca or call the office at 905-372-6811, ext. 3068.



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