

Good news for local patients Additional surge funding brings total funded beds at NHH to 112

Staff, physicians, and local government leaders joined patients and area health-care partners for a special announcement at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) this week. The Ontario government is delivering on its promise “to end hallway health care” by acting to expand access to long-term care and reduce the strain on the local health care system bracing for another flu season, and the news was met in Northumberland with loud applause.

“One patient treated in a hallway is one patient too many,” said David Piccini, MPP for Northumberland – Peterborough South, at the announcement December 17th in the Main Street Bistro at NHH. “This move will reduce the strain on the health care system in advance of the upcoming flu season and work with front line health care professionals and other experts to transform the province’s health care system.”

“On behalf of the staff and physicians who provide care on a daily basis at NHH, our management team and the Board of Directors we sincerely thank you and our government for this wonderful news,” said Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO.



Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP David Piccini, centre, with NHH President and CEO Linda Davis and Chief of Staff Dr. Mukesh Bhargava, following this week’s funding announcement

“This funding will provide very welcome support to NHH and help us recover the costs of beds that we have had to open to meet local patient need. Although this funding is temporary—to cover surge related to the flu season—challenges related to patient flow at NHH are not just a winter phenomenon. Here in Northumberland surge has become a reality 12 months of the year. Today’s announcement is very welcome news to better support local care in the short term. System-wide solutions are required to fix this challenge in the long term, and we applaud the government’s commitment to these long-term solutions. We look forward to working together, alongside our community partners.”

Premier Doug Ford and Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, recently announced the creation of more than 1,100 beds and spaces in hospitals and community settings across the province in advance of the upcoming flu season. As part of this announcement, Northumberland Hills Hospital will receive \$242,000 in funding for four hospital beds and spaces, bringing the total funded number of in-patient beds at NHH to 112 to the end of the current fiscal year, ending March 31, 2019.



Interested in seeing first-hand the reality of hallway health care here in Northumberland, MPP David Piccini toured the NHH Emergency Department December 17th following his funding announcement. He’s seen here talking with John Hobart, Registered Nurse.

Ontario is moving forward with building 6,000 new long-term care beds across the province, representing the first wave of more than 15,000 new long-term care beds that the government has committed to build over the next five years. For further details, please see MPP Piccini’s news release, posted on nhh.ca.

Next Northumberland PACE talk to explore “The Science of Happiness”

Join **Dr. Mukesh Bhargava** for what promises to be another interesting Northumberland PACE discussion on “The Science of Happiness” on Wednesday, January 16th! A collaborative between community health-care providers and local residents interested in learning more about health and wellness, PACE (which stands for Personalized Assessment and Change Education) is a TED Talks-inspired speakers’ series hosted (on a rotating basis) at Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg and the Community Health Centres of Northumberland, in Port Hope. Seats are available free of charge. Pre-registration is required, to manage room capacity. To register, and see video recordings of past talks, go to www.pacetalks.com. Questions? Contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

A holiday message from NHH President and CEO Linda Davis, and Board Chair Elizabeth Selby

Northumberland Hills Hospital’s team of staff, physicians and volunteers works very hard to ensure the holiday season spirit of giving is hard-wired year-round into the care provided throughout the hospital.

While it’s our job to provide compassionate, high quality care to others, this past month has also shown us yet again just how much this community gives to us.



In the past four weeks alone NHH has been able to share generous community donor support in the form of our Foundation’s latest major capital equipment purchase: the fluoroscopy system. A beautiful holiday display has been installed in our inner courtyard—the work of kind and caring local volunteers. Cheerful poinsettias have been delivered to brighten our waiting rooms, common areas and nursing stations—gifts from the Town of Cobourg and Trinity College School in Port Hope. And food, lots of it, was delivered this week to our Emergency Department team from a grateful family.

These are just a very few of the large and small acts of kindness we receive at NHH every day, not just in the giving season of the holidays, but all year long. They are signs of what gives a community hospital like ours its community spirit—and they are very much appreciated.

On behalf of the NHH team, best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy holiday season. We are honoured to provide care when you and your loved ones need us, and we look forward to continuing to serve you and yours in 2019.

