

STAFF-LED FUNDRAISER FOR HAITI RAISES OVER \$500 IN THREE DAYS

Images of the aftermath of the earthquake that rocked Haiti earlier this month have inspired many Canadians to take action. Among those eager to help were staff members at NHH.

Staff, visitors and patients all had an opportunity to get involved last week, when the NHH Emergency Department team hosted a Toonie Bedpan Toss in the Main Street Bistro! Aimed at raising as many toonies as possible for this urgent cause, the three-day event was organized in memory of retired RN Yvonne Martin, from Elmira, Ontario. Martin had just arrived in Haiti as part of a six-member medical missionary team when the earthquake struck. Sadly, she was among the Canadians now confirmed dead in the disaster.

All proceeds raised were donated, in Yvonne Martin's honour, to the Canadian Red Cross. Thanks to all who participated!!



Payroll Coordinator Kelly Watson (second from left) tries her luck while NHH Emergency Department organizers Stacey Skoloudik (RN), Ashley Smith (Ward Clerk), Cathy Settingington (RN) and Kyle Militello (co-op student from St Mary's Secondary School) cheer her on!

HOSPITAL WORKING WITH CENTRAL EAST LHIN ON OPTIONS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

The provincial government, facing a \$25 billion deficit, has asked all hospitals to present 2010/11 budget plans for three financial scenarios: a 2%, a 1% or a 0% increase in government funding. A Framework for Making Choices (shown below) has been provided by the Local Health Integration Networks to help hospitals achieve this expectation. The emphasis is on health system reform, where services may be integrated, realigned or removed.

Like many hospitals in the province, NHH is facing very tough choices this year with respect to the services now provided. Operating costs continue to rise, the demand for services continues to grow and revenues are not keeping pace with inflation. Despite \$1.4 million in efficiencies found through internal efforts in the last year, NHH is forecasting a fourth year of operating deficit (approximately \$1.8 M) for 2010/11. Additional operating efficiencies have been identified, but they will be insufficient to close the funding gap. Hence, some change to services – through transfer, integration or removal – appears to be likely.

Recognizing these realities, the Hospital Board undertook extensive public consultation on the choices relating to our services. As previously announced, a Citizens' Advisory Panel of twenty-five community representatives was selected through a civic lottery process. We are grateful to those individuals for the extensive time commitment, perspectives and insight provided to the Board. Their advice on service prioritization was delivered to the Board at our strategic planning session held earlier this month.

The Board also received advice and perspectives from our physician community and management team. Open and transparent discussions about the realities we face has not been easy, particularly on our staff due to the uncertainty the future holds, but we have gained a better understanding of the expectations and values of the community we serve.

To date, no decisions have been made. In March, the Hospital Board expects to make its final deliberations in preparing for a balanced budget for 2010/11. Any changes in services must be approved by the Central East LHIN. Currently, our management team is working closely with the Central East LHIN to explore all options to achieve a balanced operating budget, while minimizing the impact on services and staff. Indeed, this is a challenging task, but one that we must undertake to ensure the long-term viability of our local community hospital.

While there is a lot of uncertainty in our world today, we remain optimistic about our Hospital. What we can be certain about is that the strength of our health care team, and our shared commitment to our Hospital will guide us through the challenges we face. Together we will build a sustainable future for NHH, and we will continue to provide quality and safe patient care.

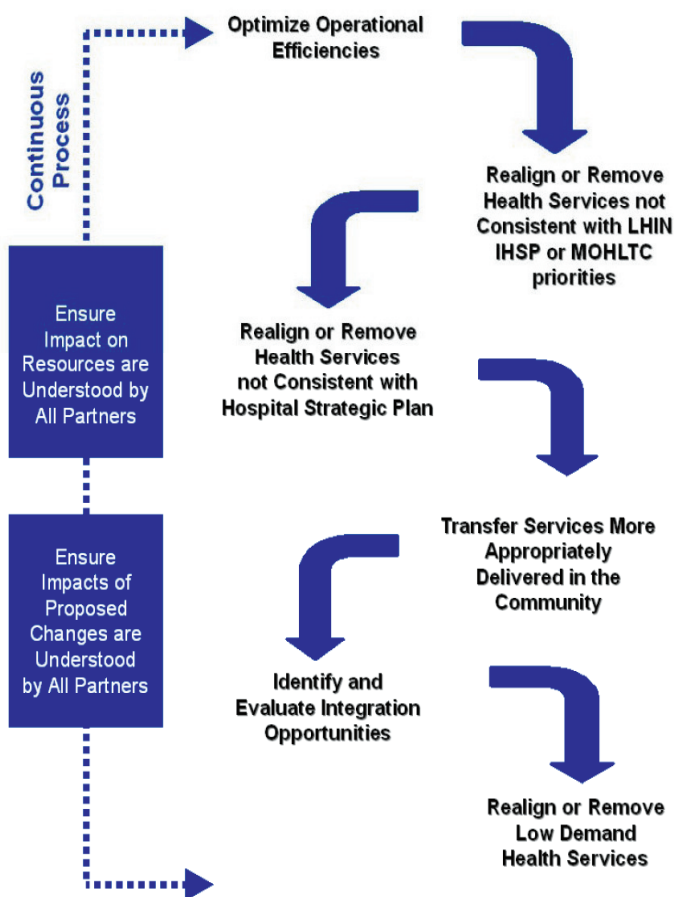
John Hudson, Board Chair
Robert Biron, President and CEO

Feedback on our hospital communications?

Please email or call Jennifer Gillard,
Director of Communications and
Community Engagement, at:
jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757

Hospital Accountability Planning Submission 2010-2012

Framework for Making Choices



FRAMEWORK FOR MAKING CHOICES - PLANNING WITHIN THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)—14 community-based organizations established by the Government of Ontario to plan, co-ordinate, integrate and fund health care services at the local level—released guidelines last summer that are to be used by Ontario hospitals for the development of operating plans and budgets. Included in the guidelines (available on the Central East LHIN website at www.centraleastlhin.on.ca) is this Framework for Making Choices.

SAVE THE DATE! Upcoming NHH Foundation events

Heart for the Hospital Valentine's Dance with The Royals!

Saturday, February 13, 8:00 PM, Best Western Cobourg Inn

Cobourg Police Lawmen vs Northumberland Hills Hospital All-Stars Hockey Game

Monday, February 15 (Family Day), 11:00 AM,
Cobourg Memorial Arena Pad 1

Traditional Irish Ceilil!

Saturday, February 27, Columbus Community Centre in Cobourg

For more information visit the Foundation section at www.nhh.ca
or call the Foundation office at 905-372-6811, ext. 3065.

Upcoming NHH Auxiliary events

Polar Bear Dip

Sunday, February 14, 1:00 PM, Cobourg Beach

For more information, and a copy of the registration/pledge form,
please visit www.nhh.ca