



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS
HOSPITAL

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QUALITY HEALTHCARE
WORKPLACE AWARD

GOLD
2013

NHH Board of Directors
Next Meeting

Thursday, February 6th, 2014
5:00 PM, Board Room, NHH

Message from Linda Davis, President and CEO

Integration and budget planning. Two efforts, one goal: enhancing patient care

Since January 2013, seven Health Service Providers from Northumberland County have been meeting as part of a facilitated integration process at the direction of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

The process was well under way when I arrived at NHH over two months ago and took a seat at the Northumberland Integration Planning Team (IPT) table. I've really appreciated this opportunity for a fast introduction to my counterparts at some of the many organizations—such as Campbellford Memorial Hospital, Community Care Northumberland and the Port Hope Community Health Centre—that share responsibility for providing health care in our region. Challenging as some of our discussions have been, I've found them immensely helpful in building my understanding of the dedicated teams in this region and the services they provide.

The impetus for change is a desire to improve patient access to high quality care while making the best use of limited public dollars. In mid-December, following a process the LHIN is using in other regions, the IPT released six recommendations (a DRAFT Integrated Service Delivery Model) for broad community input.

The IPT is now reviewing the feedback received and finalizing a proposed FINAL Integration Plan. This Plan will be presented to the boards of each of the participating organizations and the LHIN Board next month (February 2014). The NHH Board will discuss the Plan in open session at its February 6th Board meeting.

On the budget front, NHH is now entering the final two months of our 2013/14 fiscal year with planning well under way to build the budget for 2014/15. The challenges are considerable, as we work to strike the right balance between investing in our priorities, meeting the rising activity and acuity in our Emergency Department and Intensive Care Units, and addressing our financial obligations.

By next month our Board and senior team will have a clearer picture of how the 2013/14 fiscal year will end up. We are currently showing a deficit once again when we needed a surplus to catch up on last year's shortfall. I am cautiously optimistic that we can hold the line and end the year where we need to be without impact on NHH services. 2014/15 is a separate challenge. As we have shared with staff and our LHIN, we will be hard-pressed to continue doing all we do with the dollars available, particularly given the trends we're seeing in terms of rising demand.

In the course of my introductions to the hospital team, I have had the opportunity to chat with front line staff, shadow some of them in their day-to-day roles, and see the work that is happening here every day. I am immensely impressed by the quality patient care at NHH. The facility is outstanding and the people are among the best I've ever worked with. We *will* meet the challenges ahead and sustain NHH for generations to come. We must.

Details on the process and Northumberland's DRAFT Integrated Service Delivery Model are available for your reference on the Central East LHIN's website at www.centraleastlin.on.ca. Further details on integration and our 2014/15 budget will be communicated as the work is completed. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at 905-372-6811, ext. 4005 or ldavis@nhh.ca if you have questions and comments.

Sincerely,
Linda

Deadline for 2014 Health Professions Scholarship applications coming up February 15th

Applications to NHH's annual Health Professions Scholarship Program are due by Saturday, February 15th.

Introduced by the hospital in 2003, the purpose of the Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to students from west Northumberland who are pursuing a career in the health care sector. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of their academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, a testimonial explaining their interest in a health-care field and written references. All applicants must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a full-time study program.

By supporting local students early in their academic studies, Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) hopes to encourage area youth to consider NHH in their career path when the time comes to select an employer. Full details, including a downloadable Application Form, are available on the Careers tab of the hospital's website at nhh.ca.

Cervical cancer—Screen for life!

February 4, 2014 is World Cancer Day – a day when countries around the globe unite to highlight the on-going fight against cancer by raising cancer awareness.

NHH is proud to support this effort through ongoing education and communication including, most recently, a news release highlighting the benefits of cervical cancer screening.

This year, cervical cancer will be found in about 1,500 women in Canada. At least one Canadian woman will die each day from this disease.

Ontario's Cervical Screening Program—through Cancer Care Ontario and its related Screen for Life initiative—has launched a major campaign aimed at reminding women to protect themselves from cervical cancer by having regular Pap tests. Personalized letters explaining the benefits of cervical screening, and current best practices, are being distributed to local households now.

The Pap test is a simple screening test performed by a doctor or nurse practitioner. It looks for early warning signs of cervical cancer. **Cervical cancer can most often be prevented with regular screening.**

For information on Pap tests, what to do when a test result is abnormal and the colposcopy service offered at NHH to detect and sample pre-cancerous cells so that they can be treated before cancer develops, see the full release at nhh.ca.

Friendly 2013 competition between NHH and Northumberland County nets gains for United Way and the community!



Motivated by a challenge from Northumberland County, NHH staff, physicians and volunteers surpassed their 2013 Northumberland United Way campaign target to raise \$12,036. Combined with Northumberland County's own achievement (they too surpassed their 2013 target, with \$14,303 raised) a total of \$26,339 was raised by the two organizations for Northumberland United Way's 2013 campaign. The NUW will announce last year's campaign results at their Achievement breakfast Feb. 13th. For details on the programs supported by NUW in our community, see northumberland.unitedway.ca

Upcoming Events – NHH Auxiliary and Foundation

Polar Dip – Saturday, February 15th – CANCELLED – Extreme weather not cooperating! See related release at nhh.ca

Cops vs. Docs Annual Charity Hockey game in support of the NHH Foundation – Monday, February 17th (Family Day) - At the CCC! Great prizes, including Boston Pizza coupons + a chance to get on the ice and shoot-to-win \$500!



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