



NHH balances operating budget for second consecutive year while investing in strategic priorities

The Annual and Special Meeting of the Members of Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) took place on Thursday, June 21st. John Hudson, outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors, thanked and introduced the 2011/12 Board and the community volunteers who supported its committee work in the past year before welcoming the evening's keynote speaker, Dr. Veronique Boscart.

As part of the hospital's investment in gerontology, Dr. Boscart has been bringing her extensive nursing experience as a clinician, nurse educator, manager and researcher to NHH in a part-time capacity. The focus of her address was the value of compassionate, nurse/patient relationships and the impact of person-centred care in achieving positive health outcomes.

Bill Gerber, Chair of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee, provided a summary of NHH's Financial Report for the year ended March 31st, 2012, noting: "2011/12 marked the second consecutive year that NHH has achieved a balanced operating position, ending the fiscal year with a small operating surplus of \$78,183." Staff and management were acknowledged for the time and hard work they invested so that NHH might achieve this goal.

The Auditors' Report was presented by KPMG LLP's Vicki Leakey, and members approved the re-appointment of the firm as the hospital's external auditors for fiscal year 2012/13.

Remarks from John Hudson included a tribute to the years of wise counsel provided by the late Nick O'Nians. Nick passed away suddenly in February, 2012, while serving his 10th and final year as Director on the NHH Board. Two of his children, daughters Janet Vella and Katherine Maguire, attended the Annual Meeting to receive the Board's appreciation for their father's service to NHH.

First Vice-Chair Doug Mann provided a summary of John Hudson's achievements over his three-year term as Board Chair at NHH, thanking him for his dedicated service to his hospital and community, and for his leadership during a period of transformation both at NHH and in the hospital sector at large. While June's meeting marked the end of John Hudson's term as Chair, he remains on the Board as a Director.

A report from President and CEO Robert Biron highlighted specific NHH achievements in the past year in areas including operational efficiency, infection prevention and regional leadership in senior-friendly care. NHH's selection as host agency for the Central East Local Health Integration Network's Regional Specialized Geriatric Services entity was cited as a significant accomplishment, as was the hospital's role in the new Northumberland PATH project, funded through a \$3-million research grant from The Change Foundation.

The final order of business was the report of the Board's Nominating Committee, brought forward by Director Heather Sculthorpe. The Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of candidates for the four vacancies on the Board with their respective wards and terms: Tom Sears, Ward 1, 3-year term; John Farrell, Ward 2, 1-year term; Doug Mann, Ward 3, 3-year term; and Bob Carman, Ward 3, 3-year term.

At the Board meeting immediately following the Annual and Special Meeting of the Members, Board Directors unanimously appointed Doug Mann as the Board's new Chair. Also appointed unanimously were Jack Russell (First Vice-Chair), and Beth Brook (Second Vice-Chair).

A complete listing of NHH Board members and community committee volunteers is available at www.nhh.ca; the hospital's 2011/12 Annual Report will be found on the same website's Document Archive.



Local lawyer Doug Mann (right) is the new chair of the Northumberland Hills Hospital Board of Directors. The appointment came June 21st following the hospital's Annual and Special Meeting of the Members. John Hudson, who completed a three-year term as chair at the June meeting, was recognized for his dedicated service to his hospital and community. He will continue to serve the Board as a Director.

Clean hands save lives!

Many dangerous bacteria—and the diseases associated with them—are spread around the community by dirty hands...and that "dirt" is usually invisible. Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick or spreading germs to others, whether we're visiting the hospital or out and about in the community.

When should you wash your hands?

- Before, during and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- After touching garbage

What is the right way to use hand sanitizer?

- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (ABHS) that contains 70 to 90% alcohol.
- Apply the product to the palm of one hand and rub your hands together vigorously (rubbing is important to kill bacteria)
- Rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry

What is the right way to wash hands with soap and water?

- If hands are visibly dirty, wet your hands with clean, running water and apply soap
- Rub your hands together to make a lather and scrub them well; be sure to scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers and under your nails
- Continue rubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds. How long is this? Hum the Happy Birthday song twice
- Rinse your hands well under running water and dry thoroughly

What else can we do to prevent infections from spreading?

- Clean your hands often, wherever you are
- Don't be afraid to ask your health providers to clean their hands before and after caring for you (regular audits show NHH's hand hygiene program has excellent rates of compliance among all staff and physicians, but never hesitate to ask: 'did you clean your hands?')
- Only take antibiotics as prescribed by your doctor
- Don't visit a hospital patient if you are sick (for more on Visitor Tips see the NHH Backgrounder, *Visitor Tips for Minimizing the Spread of Infection* on www.nhh.ca)

Sources:
Regional Infection Control Networks (www.ricn.on.ca);
Public Health Ontario (www.oahpp.ca);
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov); and
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (www.apic.org)



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