

## NHH Annual Meeting highlights the strengthening continuum of palliative and end-of-life care services in Northumberland County – and the rising needs

The Peter B. and Mary T. Smith Community Education Centre at NHH welcomed a full house on June 26<sup>th</sup> for the hospital's Annual Meeting. In addition to the Board's annual business of year-end financial reporting, presentation of reports from senior leaders and Board member elections (summarized in full in the related news release at [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca)) the evening featured a timely keynote address from three local individuals very knowledgeable in the area of palliative care.

NHH's President and CEO Linda Davis underscored the importance of these palliative resources in her introduction. "Northumberland has a markedly older population than the province as a whole," she noted, "with 25 per cent of the population of Northumberland County already 65 or older in 2016 (versus 16 per cent in Ontario as a whole). "What is more striking," she noted, "is the expansion of that older demographic. In just a few short years—by 2036—it is projected that the 65+ segment of our local population will swell to 34 per cent of our total population. This older population will have multiple health care requirements including palliative and end-of-life care."

Speaking from the perspectives of hospital care as well as home and community care services, the trio—**Trish Baird**, Executive Director of Community Care Northumberland (CCN), the agency responsible for Ed's House-Northumberland Hospice Care Centre, now under construction in Hamilton Township, **Cheryl McFarlane**, CCN's Regional Hospice Program Coordinator, and **Dr. Francesco Mulé**, NHH Service Lead for Palliative and Pain Management—shared their insights into the rising need for palliative services and the role of palliative caregivers and volunteers, both in hospital and in the community, in supporting individuals with a life threatening diagnosis.

Emphasizing that palliative care is much more than the 'last step,' the trio spoke to the benefits they have seen from introducing it early, taking a team approach, and honouring the patient's choice. All agree - every patient situation is unique and the role of palliative care providers, whether they are at Northumberland Hills Hospital, at Community Care Northumberland, or in the community, is to recognize what each patient needs, let them lead... and help, to the best of their ability. "Everyone in this room will one day die," said Mule. "Let's acknowledge that and plan for it - the earlier the better."

**In 2018/19, 376 patients received palliative care at NHH – an increase of 23% in just three years.**



For more on the palliative care talk, the highlights of the Annual Meeting, and a link to NHH's **2018/19 Annual Report to the Community** now available, see [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca). Hard copies of the Annual Report are available from NHH's Public Affairs office at 905-377-7757.

**From left to right: (Past) NHH Board Chair Elizabeth Selby, Community Care Northumberland Executive Director Trish Baird, Community Care Northumberland Regional Hospice Program Coordinator Cheryl McFarlane and Dr. Francesco Mulé, NHH Service Lead, Palliative and Pain**

## Increase in funding announced for NHH

NHH will receive \$1,003,504 in new base funding, and up to \$335,940 in one-time funding to support ongoing patient surge costs. MPP David Piccini made the announcement at the hospital June 27<sup>th</sup> in front of a cafeteria full of staff, physicians, patients, local officials and area media.

"On behalf of the NHH team, we sincerely thank you and our Government's health system leaders for this very positive news," said Linda Davis, President and CEO. "The dollars ... announced today will help fund additional beds our team has already had to open in fiscal year 2019/20 in order to meet local patient needs. NHH's previous base funding provided for 96 beds. An additional 8 beds are supported temporarily through one-time surge dollars for a total funded bed count of 104. Here in Northumberland, where we have a growing and aging population, surge is a reality 12 months of the year. Just two months into the current fiscal year, we are continuing to average inpatient occupancy well above our funded 104 threshold, with an average of 121 and 118 inpatients respectively for April and May 2019. These new dollars will help prevent us from having to house patients in hallways or unconventional spaces because beds are not available, and this will make a very significant difference to the patients we serve, and the care providers who deliver that care."

For further details on the funding announcement see [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca). More context on NHH's operating funding will be found in the 2018/19 Annual Report to the Community, also on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca).

## Port Hope students recognized with Health Profession Scholarship awards from NHH



**Catharine Mead** (left) and **Madison Holmes** (right) were recognized with \$1,000 awards from (past) Board Chair Elizabeth Selby on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in recognition of their academic achievements, extra-curricular activities and interest in health-related careers. Both from Port Hope, the students are pursuing full-time university studies in kinesiology and nursing, respectively.

Introduced by NHH in 2003, the Health Profession Scholarships aim to help support students from west Northumberland who have chosen to pursue a career in the health-care sector.

NHH thanks all the 2019 student applicants and those who supported the students with written references. West Northumberland produces a wealth of very worthy candidates each year and 2019 was no exception. Applications for consideration in 2020 are invited at any time prior to the February 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 deadline. See the Careers tab at [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca) for details.

## NHH in the news

Thanks to *Consider This* host Rob Washburn and Northumberland 89.7FM for inviting NHH's new Board Chair, Pam Went, and President and CEO Linda Davis on air on July 5<sup>th</sup>. The hour-long conversation covered annual meeting highlights, health system transformation and more. Listen to the podcast here: <https://northumberland897.ca/consider-this-northumberland>.