

### NHH wraps up fiscal year with Annual Meeting 2014/15 concluded with an unexpected operating surplus due to one-time, non-recurring funding but financial challenges forecast for 2015/16

NHH's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> in the hospital's Education Centre. Approximately 60 people attended the evening event chaired by Board Chair Jack Russell, including Board Directors, community committee volunteers, hospital staff and area residents.

The Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2015, were presented by Bill Gerber, Chair of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee. Gerber's report confirmed that NHH concluded the 2014/15 fiscal year with an operating surplus of \$896,151, thus meeting its Hospital Service Accountability Agreement with the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) and the requirements necessary to receive a second funding installment under the province's Working Funds Deficit Initiative.

With the \$422,900 in Working Funds Deficit Initiative dollars (funds applicable only to paying down existing debt), NHH's total operating surplus at year end was \$1,319,051.

"This operating surplus was not anticipated in the fall of 2014," explained Gerber. In the fall of last year NHH was forecasting an operating deficit as large as \$800,000.

"Our surplus was achieved as a result of over \$2 million in one-time, non-recurring funding and revenue received in the very last quarter of the fiscal year," he noted, adding that the one-time funding included unplanned revenue from the Central East LHIN—to alleviate eligible operating pressures such as surge and non-urgent patient transportation—as well as unexpected revenue related to our hospital's satellite dialysis program.

Without these dollars, NHH would have incurred an operating deficit of \$771,024. Though NHH continues to be an efficient provider of high quality health care with good wait time performance, low administrative costs and cost-efficient delivery of care, the significant one-time funding received in 2014/15 will not continue for fiscal 2015/16. As a result, NHH is facing an operating shortfall against expenses of approximately \$1.1 million for 2015/16, based on continued operating pressures, salary and wage escalation and inflation assumptions.

"NHH will continue to implement strategies to increase revenues and reduce our costs where practical without negatively affecting quality patient care in our programs and services," said Gerber. "We will also welcome the LHIN-led external Operational Review, expected to begin this summer. The purpose of this Review will be to facilitate the development of a satisfactory Improvement Plan to resolve our financial challenges not just for 2015/16 but for the long-term as well."

For highlights from the Annual Meeting, including information on new Board and Community Committee volunteer members, please see the related news release on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca). Updates to the NHH Board's full 2015/16 membership will be published on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca) in the coming weeks. NHH's 2014/15 Annual Report to the Community, also released at the Meeting, will be found in the Document Archive at [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca), in local copies of *Northumberland News* on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, or on request from hospital Administration.

### New board members, community committee volunteers, welcomed

Lynda Kay, Chair of the NHH Board's Nominating Committee, took the podium at last week's Annual Meeting to introduce three new Community Committee members.

"Our Committee received a very good response to the open call for Community Members issued in March of this year," said Kay. "Following the call our Committee met to review the upcoming vacancies on NHH's skills-based Board and to review candidates who had expressed an interest in those vacant positions."

**David Slater** (Ward 3), **Michael McAllister** (Ward 2) and **Mary Ann Peek** (Ward 3) will sit on Board Committees for two-year terms with full Committee voting privileges. With regard to the three Board Director vacancies, the following were approved and welcomed at the Annual Meeting: **Starr Olsen** (Ward 2); **Pamela Went** (Ward 3); and **Cyndi Gilmer** (Ward 1).

Also approved were three re-appointments to the Board: **Jack Russell**, who was also re-elected as Board Chair; **Doug Mann** and **Bob Carmen** (each of Ward 3). **Elizabeth Selby** (Ward 3) will serve as the Board's First Vice-Chair while **Catharine Tozer** (Ward 1) was elected Second Vice-Chair. For further details please see the related news release on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca)

### Tribute to the late Christine Stewart



Last week's Annual Meeting included a special tribute to the late Christine Stewart, received by eldest son Doug (above right) and granddaughter Meredith. Chair of the hospital's Quality and Safety Committee and NHH Board representative on the NHH Foundation Board at the time of her death in April, 2015, Stewart was widely respected for her local, national and international community service. The Board, represented above by President and CEO Linda Davis and Board Chair Jack Russell, presented her family with a token of appreciation that would have been given to Stewart at the end of her term of service. With the NHH Foundation's help, a lilac tree has been planted in the new front garden at NHH in her memory.

### Patient stories shared



"The care has been excellent!" said Dorothy and John Davidson (above left). The Cobourg couple was among several patients and caregivers who generously shared their NHH stories with Board members and guests at NHH's 2014/15 Annual Meeting. Speaking to the care received in the past two months by Dorothy's mother Janet Pearson, they detailed their journey through the Emergency Department and onto the inpatient floors. Jennifer Sinker (center) and Colleen Hadwen-Parnell (second from right) also shared their stories. For these and more patient stories from the past year, please see the 2014/15 Annual Report to the Community and the related news release at [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca)



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