



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS  
HOSPITAL

keeping you  
**in touch**  
WITH YOUR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

**NHH Board of Directors  
Upcoming Meetings**

Monthly Board Meeting  
Thursday, June 2nd, 5:00 PM  
Board Room, NHH

Annual General Meeting  
Thursday, June 16th, 7:00 PM  
Education Centre, NHH

## NHH ALC STRATEGY INVESTIGATED AS A POSSIBLE MODEL FOR OTHERS



an overview of the activity that has been under way at NHH to address ALC volumes and patient flow. Included in the presentation was a review of NHH's new Restorative Care program (opened March 1st 2011). Recently enhanced therapies, new gerontology expertise and new discharge planning processes were also discussed and an update was provided on the local implementation of the province-wide Home First philosophy.

There was much interest in NHH's progress to date and the extensive work that has been done to tackle what is a provincial ALC challenge. As shared with Dr. Walker and team, NHH's ALC days have seen a considerable improvement since the rollout of our strategies and tactics commenced. From a previous year's average of 25% acute ALC, NHH's statistics have dropped to 6.1% and 7.9 % in March and April 2011 respectively. May also appears to be tracking well, indicating that NHH is on track to achieve its Accountability Agreement funding requirement to reach a target of 16.8 % acute ALC. Work continues on the various arms of the hospital and broader health care system's Aging at Home strategy as we work together to decrease the number of ALC patients in hospitals.

**ALC is a designation used by hospitals to refer to patients who are no longer in the acute phase of their illness but still occupy an acute care hospital bed. These patients are waiting in hospital for another, more appropriate "alternate" type of service, such as convalescent care, supportive housing, long-term care or a return home with community supports.**

## SPRING CONVERSATIONS CONCLUDE

*Message from John Hudson, NHH Board Chair*

The fourth of four events in our new *Conversations* speakers' series, presented jointly with the NHH Foundation's Caring for Generations Society, wrapped up on Tuesday, May 10th with a talk and discussion on the future of smaller community hospitals and the changing role of local hospital boards.

Health reform and hospital governance experts Graham Scott and Maureen Quigley delivered a thought-provoking look at how the face of health care is changing. As noted by Graham Scott, what is done in hospitals, who does it and—by extension—what is done outside hospital walls is in the midst of transition. Related to this, expectations for hospital and other not-for-profit boards have changed dramatically in recent years. New standards of best practice are requiring boards to make fundamental changes to their structures, policies and processes.

Graham Scott and Maureen Quigley were skilled speakers on these weighty subjects, by virtue of their direct involvement in the amalgamation, restructuring and governance processes of numerous hospitals in Ontario.

Among the many observations shared was a prediction of what the community hospital would look like in 10 years. Describing it much like a portal into a more integrated provincial system of clinical care, Scott described improved chronic disease management and support, enhanced digital communications for diagnoses and improved access to specialist clinics (less travel). Family practices, likewise, will increasingly become multidisciplinary, ensuring better access to the level of advice and care required.

For a copy of their presentation, and remarks from previous speakers, please go to [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca).

Thank you to all who participated in these unique discussions on health system sustainability. Thanks, as well, to our generous sponsors—Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt and RBC—as well as the teams at Classical 103.1 FM, 107.9 The Breeze and Star 93.3 for their assistance in promoting the events.

Dr. David Walker, leader of the province's new Alternative Level of Care (ALC) team, paid a visit to the Central East LHIN last week and a substantial portion of his time was spent at NHH, learning about our ALC strategy. In his role, Dr. Walker is advising the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and guiding the implementation of strategies to ensure timely and appropriate placement of ALC patients within the community.

At the LHIN's request, NHH's Wendy Kolodziejczak (above left), Project Manager, ALC Strategy, and Helen Brenner (centre), Vice President, Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive, provided Dr. Walker and his team with

## Union Gas Rewards Hospital's Recent Energy Saving Project with Rebate

NHH received a welcome rebate cheque last month for a reduction in gas consumption resulting from recent changes to the operation of the hospital's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

Over 50% of the hospital's energy costs are related to the integrated HVAC system. By analyzing and then modifying the variable frequency drives that regulate the heating and cooling of the hospital according to times of use, NHH has been able to reduce its gas costs. Shown above receiving a rebate cheque for \$13,479 from Union Gas's Doug Bastedo, Commercial/Industrial Account Manager, are members of NHH's Environment Services team. From left to right are: Doug Bastedo, Union Gas, James Heffernan, Don Cholmondeley, Lodi Dewilde, Eric Nolet and NHH's Director, Environmental Services, Wayne Goodwin.



### Upcoming NHH Foundation Events

**Northumberland Street Hockey Festival,  
Presented by Canadian Tire**  
Saturday, May 14th, 2011

**Northumberland's Biggest Coffee Morning**  
Wednesday, June 8th, 2011

For more information on these and other Foundation events, please visit the Foundation section at [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca) or call the Foundation office at 905-372-6811, ext. 3065.

### Upcoming NHH Auxiliary Events

**Wine Tasting in the Park**

Wednesday, June 29th, 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Lions Refreshment Tent, Victoria Park, Cobourg.  
Tickets \$30 at Little Treasure Shop, Petticoat Lane  
and other locations in Cobourg and Port Hope.  
With music from the Northside Gang and food from Herma's  
this is a great way to kick off your Canada Day weekend!

For more information on the NHH Auxiliary, please visit the Volunteers section at [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca) or call the Auxiliary office at 905-372-6811, ext. 4630.

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