

Volunteers recognized

Close to 100 volunteers filled the Education Centre at Northumberland Hills Hospital April 19th at the annual National Volunteer Week event celebration.

Serving as master of ceremony for the mid-morning tea, NHH Board Chair John Hudson spoke to the variety and dedication of the many individuals who choose to lend their support to NHH.

Thanking the volunteers from the NHH Auxiliary, the NHH Foundation, the Board of Directors and the broad range of other community-based organizations who support the hospital every day, Mr. Hudson recognized "the small acts of kindness" and the very significant financial support.

"As a direct result of the NHH Foundation's volunteer efforts, as well as the fundraising services of the NHH Auxiliary, \$2 million in community donations have been directed to NHH for capital equipment purchases in the past year alone," he noted. "For a community our size, this is nothing short of remarkable."

New volunteer activities were also praised, namely a visiting program to support the new Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP), which is minimizing the functional decline often associated with seniors during hospital stays, and the addition of specific support for the hospital's Intensive Care Unit, where volunteers now assist with visitor coordination. At the NHH Board table, Mr. Hudson recognized the considerable hours contributed by community volunteers in the areas of both quality oversight and financial stewardship.

Two past presidents of the NHH Auxiliary--Patricia Fenner and Yvonne Green--shared the podium for a tribute to special guest Marg Gear, the longest-serving volunteer in the Auxiliary's history.

Wife of the late Dr. Doug Gear, a general physician and anesthetist, Mrs. Gear was a nurse by profession who took up the cause of the hospital auxiliary shortly after moving to Cobourg from Toronto in the late 1940s. A volunteer since 1949, Mrs. Gear recently retired after 63 years of dedicated service.

Referring to the distinctive burgundy vests worn by the Auxiliary volunteers, Mrs. Fenner noted: "If this were a hockey team, we'd be retiring her tabard!"

Instead, Mrs. Gear, accompanied by her five children, was treated to a moving rendition of "A" You're Adorable, made famous by Perry Como in the same year she took up hospital volunteering. Sung beautifully by James W. Gordon--owner of the local insurance company by the same name who, clearly, missed his calling--Mr. Gordon also led the crowd in a farewell song that inspired a standing ovation from everyone in the room.



Marg Gear (centre) with two past presidents of the NHH Auxiliary, Patricia Fenner (left) and Yvonne Greene (right) at the April 19th event in the NHH Education Centre.

Celebrating Nurses at NHH

**Message from Robert Biron,
President and CEO**

This week is National Nursing Week in Canada, and we are celebrating the profession here at NHH with a week-long series of events for all staff.

The one constant in our health-care system is change, and the profession of nursing continues to evolve. This year's theme for Nursing Week is "The Health of Our Nation," a phrase that highlights the extensive scope and reach of nurses throughout the health system and our communities. Without a doubt, nurses touch the lives of everyone!

Here at NHH, the nursing team is leading some fundamental changes in interprofessional practice and process improvements to further enhance the delivery of patient care. New advanced practice nursing positions have been introduced with a focus to improving practice, quality and gerontological care. NHH nurses are working collaboratively with other health professionals every day to achieve these goals.

I am regularly reminded of the strength of our clinical team by the many patient compliments and positive patient satisfaction surveys that cross my desk.

To all nurses currently working at NHH, thank you for all that you do for our patients, our hospital and community!

Upcoming Foundation Events

Northumberland's Biggest Coffee Morning - Wednesday, June 6th

An easy, fun, sociable way to raise funds for the purchase of new medical equipment for NHH! Visit www.nhhcoffee.ca or call 905-372-6811 ext. 3068

WE CARE Community Yard Sale - Saturday, June 9th, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, CDCI East, Cobourg.

Moving or downsizing? The Foundation's Youth Cares Committee is hosting the "WE CARE" Community Yard Sale. Come sell or shop! Spaces are \$25. Rent a space & keep the profits, or if you are raising money for the Youth Cares Committee, let us know and we can provide the space for free!

For more information please visit the Foundation section at nhh.ca or call the Foundation office at 905-372-6811, ext. 3068.

Upcoming NHH Auxiliary events

NEW! Spring Fever 2012 - Unique Gardening Event - Saturday, May 12th, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Scott's Lavender Farm, Grafton.

Let the NHH Auxiliary be your host for a day devoted to gardens and gardening. There will be local artists and artisans with indoor and outdoor art, nurseries with plants, master gardeners with advice and local food vendors to tempt your taste buds.

For more information please visit the Volunteers section at nhh.ca or call the Auxiliary office at 905-372-6811, ext. 4630.

Nursing opportunities at NHH - Job fair May 31st

Interested in a nursing opportunity at NHH? There are many positions now available in a range of departments for qualified nurses at all stages of their career. For current full- and part-time listings, please see the Careers section of our website at nhh.ca and save the date for our upcoming NHH Nursing Job Fair, coming up on Thursday, May 31st from 2:00 to 5:00 PM in the Education Centre. Meet representatives from departments with nursing opportunities, learn more about our strategic directions and culture and get yourself and your unique nursing skills noticed! For details, watch nhh.ca.



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Sign up for our e-newsletter at nhh.ca - it's free, and it's delivered straight to your email in-box on the day of release!