



ONTARIO BREAST SCREENING PROGRAM OPENS AT NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

New local service introduces self-referral option for routine mammography examinations for local women aged 50-74

The Clay and Elaine Elliott Women's Health Centre at Northumberland Hills Hospital is now home to a welcome new addition: an affiliate centre of the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP). An expansion of the Hospital's existing mammography service, the new program was officially opened on Wednesday, November 18.

For many eligible women in the area, the addition of the new OBSP may translate into easier access to routine breast screening. A key component of the new service is the ability for patients to self-refer. This feature will be of particular benefit for those without a family physician. As with the previous process for mammography at NHH, mammography staff will perform the OBSP mammograms. The results will be read by NHH radiologists.

All Ontario women between the ages of 50 and 74 are eligible for the OBSP, providing they have had no acute breast symptoms, no personal history of breast cancer or breast implants. Women with these factors, as well as those over the age of 74, are encouraged to consult with their family physician about continued screening.

All eligible women, including those who are currently attending an OBSP affiliate outside of the west Northumberland area, can come to NHH for their next and future biennial routine OBSP mammography examinations. NHH will make the necessary arrangements

to have any previous mammography studies, including those completed at another OBSP centre, transferred to NHH.

The OBSP is a province-wide organized breast screening program designed to ensure Ontario women receive the benefits of regular screening. The program is operated by Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term

Care. Its aim is to increase the number of women who have regular screening to allow cancers to be diagnosed as early as possible to make treatment easier and more successful.

To book an appointment, or obtain more information, please contact the OBSP, Northumberland Hills Hospital line directly at: 905-377-7795.



Shown (l-r) at the official opening of OBSP, Northumberland Hills Hospital are Pam Jessop, Julia Niblett and Dr. Hugh Langley representing the OBSP Regional Hub in Kingston, together with Dr. Paul Marrocco, Wendy Scott, Crystal Adams, Helen Brenner and Ian Moffat from NHH. Thanks were extended to the NHH Foundation and the NHH Auxiliary, whose members have led the community fund-raising necessary to purchase the two digital mammography units in operation at NHH. Dr. R. Dale Taylor and Dr. Andrew Stratford, local surgeons, were also recognized for offering clinical follow-up for local women with suspected abnormalities who do not have a family doctor.

HOSPITAL TO LAUNCH VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM IN THE NEW YEAR

NHH is pleased to announce the forthcoming launch of the Hospital's first Volunteer Chaplaincy Program. Designed with the support of the Cobourg Ministerial Association, the Program aims to build upon the spiritual support currently brought to patients at NHH through clergy from the area's many faith communities.

Working on a rotational basis for periods of one week, the volunteer chaplains will offer care to patients, families and staff who are in need of spiritual care and who do not have access to or connections with a representative of a faith community. They will be available by pager for emergency or critical situations that may arise within the Hospital, raise awareness of the Spiritual Care Program through regular visits on the patient care units and facilitate and participate in memorial services for patients.

Participants will be ordained or credentialed clergy or spiritual leaders or lay volunteers who have been endorsed by their respective faith community. As well, participants must have evidence of certification or education in clinical pastoral care or the willingness to participate in a Hospital training program.

"The need for a Hospital-based chaplaincy program has been the subject of discussion with our Spiritual Care Committee for several years, said Janet Burn, NHH Program Director. "Local clergy and spiritual leaders are already very active at NHH, paying regular visits to members of their congregation and faith community when they or a member of their family falls ill. But many patients do not have the spiritual and emotional benefit of such a relationship. The Volunteer Chaplaincy Program, modeled after similar programs at hospitals in other parts of the province, is a creative solution that balances patient needs with the skills present in our community today."

Added Helen Brenner, Vice President, Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive: "Thanks to the high level of volunteer interest we have had from local spiritual leaders and lay volunteers, we will soon be able to include spiritual care in the mix of care providers in our facility. We are very excited by this new initiative and we are grateful to the many talented community volunteers who are stepping forward to make it a reality."

The Volunteer Chaplaincy Program is expected to be up-and-running at NHH early in the new year.

Applications from ordained or credentialed clergy or spiritual leaders from the community are now being accepted. Evidence of certification or education in Clinical Pastoral Care and/or willingness to participate in a training program is required. For more information, please contact Janet Burn at jburn@nhh.ca or 905-377-7771.

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming NHH Foundation events

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 PM, Main Street Bistro
Light Up a Life Celebration and Courtyard Lighting Ceremony. Enjoy family focused activities including seasonal entertainment and refreshments.
Details in the Foundation section at www.nhh.ca
or call 905-372-6811 ext. 3065

Citizens' Advisory Panel Update

NHH's Citizens' Advisory Panel (CAP) has now completed three of its five meetings. The final meeting will take place on December 5 with the CAP report scheduled for delivery to the Board in January.

On Saturday, November 14 the CAP hosted a Public Roundtable Meeting at the Port Hope High School. Attended by approximately 40 members of the public, as well as the CAP members themselves, it was another opportunity for the Hospital to share directly the latest information on our financial challenges and expand the reach and dialogue with members of our community about the possible choices in services that we will need to make to return the Hospital to a balanced position.

In January and February, the NHH Board will complete its deliberations and decision-making in preparing for a balanced budget for 2010/11 and 2011/12. The NHH Board will be informed by various stakeholders' perspectives, including those put forward by the Citizens' Advisory Panel. Any changes in services must be approved by the Central East LHIN.

For the latest information on NHH's *Shared Challenge, Shared Solution* collaborative budget strategy, including e-Bulletins summarizing each step of the iterative process, please visit the Hospital's website at www.nhh.ca.

John Hudson, Board Chair
Robert Biron, President and CEO

And the 2009 Healing Hands Awards Go To...



The Healing Hands Awards are presented annually to members of the NHH team who go above and beyond to demonstrate the Hospital's values of teamwork, compassion, respect, integrity and excellence. Recipients are nominated by their peers. Recognized with Awards on November 25 were (l-r): **Bill Stillman**, Environmental Services Worker; **Kim Baxter**, RN, Chemotherapy; **Sarah Cressy**, Occupational Therapy Assistant; **Kathleen Fair**, RN and Team Leader, Dialysis; **Denise Beaudoin**, Environmental Service Worker; and **Jeannie Forsyth**, Supportive Housing Worker for ACT (Assertive Community Treatment). Honoured with an Award of Merit was **Cindy Roffey** (missing from the photo) for her continued dedication to NHH's Social Committee.

Feedback on our hospital communications?

Please email or call Jennifer Gillard, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, at: jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757