



Health Minister visits Northumberland

The NHH Board of Directors welcomed a special visitor at their last monthly meeting: The Honourable Deb Matthews, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

The Board had chosen November's meeting for an educational session on the Partners Advancing Transitions in Healthcare (PATH) project, and it was this project – and the innovative local partnership behind it -- that the Minister wanted to learn more about.

As shared in recent editions of *In Touch*, NHH is one part of a unique partnership of patients, caregivers and local health and social service providers that came together as the Northumberland Community Partnership (see members list below left) to win \$3-million in funding from The Change Foundation, a think tank dedicated to improving patient care experiences. As The Change Foundation's Genevieve Obarski pointed out in her presentation to the NHH Board November 8th, PATH is unique in that it will take the experiences of those who use the system to co-design needed improvements.

Praising NHH for the leadership role it has taken in securing The Change Foundation dollars for PATH, Minister Matthews was also very specific in her kudos for other community supported health initiatives, including NHH's results with the province-wide challenge of ALC (alternate level of care). "I am constantly scouting the system for areas where I think we can do better, and ALC is one of those areas [where] we are spending more money than we should.... Your [ALC] rates have gone from north of 30% on a consistent basis to single digits for quite a period of time. You can only do that when you have a really robust community partnership. Congratulations to you as the community selected for this remarkable investment. It happened because you work as a community."

Minister Matthews compared the current health system to a relay race. "Racers practice running fast, and they practice passing the baton. If you think of the patient as the baton, we are pretty good at running fast, but where we have so far to go is passing the baton. That is exactly the sweet spot of this [PATH] project.... Thank you for rallying around this extraordinary community initiative. You are going to teach the rest of us how to do it!"

High praise—and high expectations—from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care! Stay tuned for ways you and your family can get involved as Northumberland PATH moves forward, including an invitation going out this month to local patients, caregivers and health providers to share personal stories about local health system experiences involving seniors with chronic conditions.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Gillard at jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757 or visit The Change Foundation website at www.changefoundation.ca.

Northumberland Community Partnership

Patients and caregivers

Northumberland Hills Hospital

Central East Local Health Integration
Network

Central East Community
Community Care Access Centre

Community Care Northumberland

Golden Plough Lodge Long-Term Care
Home

Health System Performance Research
Network

NHH Community Mental Health Services

Northumberland Family Health Team

Palisade Gardens Retirement Residence

Patients' Association of Canada

QoC Health

YMCA Northumberland



Honourable Deb Matthews, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, addressed representatives of the Northumberland Community Partnership November 8th at NHH, commending the community and noting: "the whole province is watching you!"

Healing Hands awards presented to outstanding staff members at NHH

Presented annually to members of the NHH team who stand out among their colleagues for demonstrating the hospital's values of **compassion, respect, collaboration, integrity** and **quality**, these peer-generated Awards have evolved into one of the most popular forms of staff recognition at NHH.



Shown above (left to right) with hospital President and CEO Robert Biron are the recipients of NHH's latest Healing Hands Awards. The Awards were presented at a ceremony October 18th and went to: **Jessica Martell**, Occupational Therapist, Rehabilitation Department; **Ida Francoeur**, Porter, Inpatient Units; **Jeri Henderson**, Ward Clerk; **Linda Moore**, Registration/Admitting Clerk; **Amy Eriksson**, Case Manager, NHH Community Mental Health Program; and **Caralea Calvert**, Registered Nurse, Emergency Department. Missing from the photo: **Jennifer Case**, Ward Clerk, Chemotherapy Clinic.

For excerpts of the comments shared at the presentation from the colleagues who put the winners' names forward, please see the related news release at www.nhh.ca. Congratulations to all!

Foundation prepares to Light up a Life

November 15th marks the official kick-off of the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation's 19th Annual **Light up a Life** fundraising campaign.

A **Light up a Life** letter from this year's campaign chair Dr. Jay Amin is on its way to Foundation supporters, with an explanation on the importance of advanced medical equipment, and the true story of Sian Pritchard, a very grateful NHH patient who recently benefitted from past purchases. This year's campaign goal is \$130,000 – a sum that will go a long way to purchase much needed equipment for a variety of hospital services.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 12th, when the Foundation will host the **Light up a Life** ceremony in the hospital courtyard to celebrate the campaign. Starting at 7:00 PM in the Main Street Bistro, there will be family focused activities, including seasonal musical entertainment and refreshments. The highlight of the evening is the lighting of NHH's Rotary Club of Cobourg Courtyard. We hope to see you there!

NHH to host blood donor clinic December 3rd

NHH will host a special Canadian Blood Services (CBS) blood donor clinic on Monday, December 3rd, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Book your appointment online at www.blood.ca or phone 1-888-2-DONATE (1-888-236-6283). Walk-in appointments available as timing permits. Parking fees incurred by donors will be paid by CBS.



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