

## Update—NHH Operational Review

### Message from Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO

NHH's External Operational Review is now complete.

The Final Report, and its proposed Hospital Improvement Plan, was received by the NHH Board of Directors on October 15<sup>th</sup> and highlights of its findings and recommendations were discussed with internal stakeholders last week through a series of staff, volunteer and physician forums.

On October 28<sup>th</sup> the Report was received by the Board of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) at their open meeting. A copy of the LHIN presentation, including details on both the Hay Group's findings, and NHH's response, is available for reference on the LHIN website, [www.centraleastlin.on.ca](http://www.centraleastlin.on.ca) (see Board and Governance > Board Meetings).

At the time of this newsletter's printing, decisions from the October 28<sup>th</sup> LHIN Board were not yet known. A joint Central East LHIN/NHH news release on next steps is expected shortly with further details. What I can tell you is that NHH was very pleased to receive the Hay Group's affirmation of two key points.

First, **NHH is an efficient hospital** and, further, even in the face of our pressures, our efficiency has continued to improve.

Second, the services NHH currently provides are appropriate and needed. **No service reductions were recommended.**

That said, significant new efficiency opportunities were identified—not all for the coming year, but opportunities nonetheless. Further updates will follow. For background on the NHH Operational Review process please see the dedicated LHIN webpage at <http://www.centraleastlin.on.ca/accountability/performance/NHHExternalOperationalReview.aspx>.

Linda

## Don Wilson fondly remembered at the hospital he helped build

NHH received sad news last week. Don Wilson, the project manager who oversaw the successful completion of NHH, died in Toronto on Monday, October 19th at the age of 80.

"As project manager, Don made a great contribution to the building of our hospital and he was a major factor in keeping it on time and on budget," said Cobourg resident Don Morrison, who chaired the NHH Board of Directors in the latter stage of the hospital's construction (2001-2003) and, before that, chaired the "New Hospital Project Committee."

The hospital Board of the day appreciated Don Wilson and his contribution to NHH so much they took the unusual step of recognizing him as an essential member of the team on the plaque—located just inside the front main entrance—commemorating the opening day.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to Don's wife Judie and their family," said Jack Russell, current Board Chair at NHH. "The hospital he helped build received its first patient 12 years ago this month. Don's exceptional contribution to NHH lives on in the wonderful facility we have today." For further details, including funeral arrangements, please see the related news release on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca).



## Drs. Barnard-Thompson and Pepper named Rural Ontario Medical Program Preceptors of the Year



Congratulations to Dr. Erin Pepper (above left) and Dr. Kathy Barnard-Thompson (right) on their recent recognition from the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP). The doctors, both members of the local Northumberland Family Health Team and active physicians at NHH, are co-recipients of the **2015 Postgraduate Family Medicine Preceptor of the Year Award**, announced by ROMP October 1<sup>st</sup>.

In presenting the award, Dr. Peter Wells, ROMP Executive Director, praised the two physicians for their commitment to postgraduate students who regularly train with them in their family practices and at NHH.

"Dr. Pepper's students have highlighted her medical expertise, her teaching, and her respect for learners," said Wells.

Similarly, residents' feedback on their rotations with Dr. Barnard-Thompson highlighted the length to which Dr. Barnard-Thompson, and the community in general, goes to welcome medical learners into the area. As one learner commented, "Dr. Barnard-Thompson was an excellent preceptor. She has a diverse practice that afforded great learning opportunities. She was also flexible in allowing me to get the experience that I wanted out of my time in Cobourg."

ROMP has been helping medical students and residents arrange core and elective medical rotations in rural Ontario settings since 1988. The Program's goal—beneficial to both the students and the participating communities—is to deliver quality, comprehensive rural and regional health profession education through hands-on experience in communities outside Ontario's large urban centres.

The involvement of area physicians in the ROMP preceptor program has proven to be very helpful to west Northumberland's ongoing physician recruitment efforts. Participation in a ROMP "tour" offers future physicians from each of Ontario's six medical universities a first-hand opportunity to experience both work and life in our area. Connections are established through these experiences that support successful recruitment of primary care providers in a highly competitive environment. For more on ROMP, please see: [romponline.com](http://romponline.com). For more on physician recruitment in west Northumberland, please see [northumberlanddocs.com](http://northumberlanddocs.com)



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