



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS
HOSPITAL

keeping you
in touch
WITH YOUR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



NHH Board of Directors
Next Meeting

Thursday October 4th, 2012
5:00 PM — Board Room, NHH

Telemedicine Services expanding at NHH, thanks to new funding for dedicated resource, additional equipment

Two-way video conferencing technology is improving more local residents' access to specialized health care services, thanks to recent investments from the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN).

NHH is one of a number of hospitals on the receiving end of new base funding (\$63,766 for NHH for fiscal year 2012/13) to better leverage Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) technology for virtual patient consultations, assessments, training and knowledge exchange.

An independent, not-for-profit organization funded by the Ontario Government, OTN facilitates the delivery of care across its network, as well as distance education and meetings for health care professionals and patients.

While not a newcomer to OTN (NHH has been using OTN technology to support its mental health program for the past three years and for staff education purposes since 2003), clinical services will be expanded in the area of patient-to-specialist consultations.

Four telemedicine systems are now live and operational at NHH—an increase from two. NHH's first Ontario Telemedicine Coordinator, RN **Patti Ley**, has also been recruited and new integrated equipment to complement the systems is in place or soon to be brought online, including a patient exam camera, that could be used for live examination of wounds or incisions, a camera used to take and store pictures of dermatological conditions for assessment by a dermatologist and a digital stethoscope.

Typically initiated by a referral from a family doctor, the Coordinator sets up the OTN appointment with the patient and/or their caregiver, and is on-hand to assist both parties on the day of the consultation. Appointments occur at various locations within NHH, including the community-based mental health program at 1011 Elgin Street West, Suite 200, and in the Ambulatory Care Clinic at the main hospital location at 1000 DePalma Drive.

For general information on OTN, see www.otn.ca. For more information on OTN services available at NHH today and other networking in the works, contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jjillard@nhh.ca.



Patti Ley, NHH's new OTN Coordinator

How does an OTN appointment work?

From the patient's perspective, a telemedicine appointment is just like a regular appointment, except that the specialist they are meeting with is on a monitor.

Through a secure Virtual Private Network, real-time video and other integrated medical tools such as patient examination cameras, the Telemedicine Coordinator can connect local physicians and patients to more than 3000 regulated health care professionals anywhere in the province. Once a referral is made, the Coordinator sets up the OTN appointment with the patient and/or their caregiver, and is on-hand to assist both parties on the day of the consultation. A broad range of clinical consultations are accessible today through OTN, including psychiatric assessments, neurology consultations, pre-surgical consultations and post-surgical wound inspections to name just a few.

Health System Reform Message from Doug Mann, Chair, NHH Board of Directors

As the new Chair of the NHH Board of Directors I have, as the expression goes, some very big shoes to fill. Past chair John Hudson, who completed his three-year term as Board Chair at our Annual Meeting this past June, has led our hospital through some particularly challenging times.

As I look forward to the coming years, there is no doubt in my mind that the future will continue to present immense challenges to Ontario hospitals, including NHH. Health system reform is no longer anticipated, it is upon us. To better understand the depth and breadth of the unprecedented reforms, I encourage you to read *Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care*, released by the provincial government in January.

Subtitled "Better patient care through better value from our health care dollars," the Action Plan maps out the policy changes we can expect in the years ahead and the reasons why the changes are so pressing, namely demographic and fiscal pressures. Dollars are being shifted to where they will better meet demand in the community, and our hospital must respond to a new funding formula while maintaining the same high level of quality patient care you have come to know and trust.

NHH has already accomplished a great deal: wait times for services are among the lowest in the province; new programs have been successfully introduced to respond to the elder population; new integrations with regional centres have improved local access to specialized care; quality and safety performance have steadily improved; and, it is a cost-efficient operation with low administrative overhead.

What's more, NHH's innovation and strong performance is being recognized across the province: Health Quality Ontario cited NHH as an example of success in addressing the Alternative Level of Care (ALC) issue in their 2012 Quality Monitor Report; in 2011 our hospital was chosen to be the host agency for the Central East LHIN's Regional Specialized Geriatric Services (RSGS); and, in June of this year, the Northumberland Community Partnership was selected by The Change Foundation for its \$3 million grant for the Partners Advancing Transitions in Healthcare (PATH) project.

In short, NHH is a high performing hospital and we have a great foundation to work from as we navigate through the provincial health reform agenda. I look forward to serving this hospital and community in the next two years, and I'll bring you further updates in the months ahead.

Upcoming Foundation Events

September 17th at 8:30 AM – Gala N°12 tickets go on sale!
November 3rd - Gala N°12 – The Chanel-Inspired Event of the Year

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

Upcoming NHH Auxiliary Events

Author! Author! – October 3rd, 6:30 PM, Capital Theatre. NHH's Auxiliary volunteers have teamed up with Furby House Books to bring three Random House authors to our community: Linden MacIntyre (*Why Men Lie*), Emily Shultz (*The Blondes*) and Shauna Singh Baldwin (*The Selector of Souls*). Tickets are \$60 and include a light meal, a glass of wine and a signed copy of the book of your choice. Tickets available now at Furby House Books in Port Hope and The Little Treasure Shop at NHH.

Health Professions Scholarships presented to future RN and MD

The recipients of NHH's annual Health Professions Scholarships were announced at a ceremony at the hospital last month. **Samantha Schmachtel** (left) and **Rachel Schoon** (right) each received \$1,000 shortly before they headed back to the classroom this fall.

Samantha, who graduated from the Cobourg District Collegiate Institute West in 2010, begins her third year of study toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Ryerson University this year, with a plan to graduate in the class of 2014.

Rachel is a graduate of Port Hope High School with a Bachelor of Medical Sciences, Honours Biochemistry degree from the University of Western Ontario. She has set her sights on becoming a physician and began her first year at the University of Dalhousie's School of Medicine in Halifax, Nova Scotia earlier this month.

"By helping local students achieve their academic goals, we hope to encourage them to consider opportunities at NHH when the time comes to select an employer," said Doug Mann, as he presented the awards on behalf of the Board. "This year's recipients have demonstrated a very inspiring combination of intelligence, kindness and commitment to community service. We congratulate them on their achievements and we wish them all the best as they work toward their goals."

For further details see the related news release on www.nhh.ca. The deadline for applications for the 2013 scholarships is February 15, 2013.



Want to be the first to get updates on hospital news?
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!

nhh.ca VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND STAY in touch

SEPTEMBER 2012