



# NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NHH hosts successful Annual and Special Meeting – Members approve by-law amendments to strengthen governance oversight**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Friday, June 18, 2010** – The Board of Directors of the Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) hosted a successful Annual and Special Meeting of the Members (ASM) at the Best Western on Thursday night (June 17), with approximately 300 people in attendance.

Members approved updates to the administrative and professional By-laws of the Hospital and recognized the importance of good governance oversight.

The key note address was delivered by lawyer Michael Watts of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP. Mr. Watts has provided legal counsel to the Hospital since before the opening of the 1000 DePalma Drive location. Drawing on his experience assisting provincially appointed supervisors in numerous Ontario hospitals, including Kingston General Hospital and The Scarborough Hospital, Mr. Watts provided an overview of the legislative changes that required the By-Law amendments presented to Hospital members for approval at the ASM.

Underscored by Mr. Watts were the new expectations placed on hospitals by recent provincial legislative and regulatory changes, including the Commitment to the Future of Medicare Act, the Local Health System Integration Act and the Excellent Care for All Act. Also reviewed were hospitals' obligations to institute performance measurements that ensure quality and safe patient care and respond to requirement of the recently updated Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Divided into two sections for the purpose of voting at the meeting, both the medical staff portion and the administrative portion of the By-Law amendments were approved by members.

As announced in a media release dated June 9, 2010, the Nominating Committee of the Board recommended a slate of five (5) candidates to fill the same number of vacancies on the Board for three-year appointments. The five individuals on the slate—John Hudson (Ward 1), Kaye Jackson and Lynda Kay (Ward 2) and Doug Mann and Jack Russell (Ward 3)—were further endorsed by the Board of Directors at their May 18, 2010 meeting. The candidates were elected by acclamation by John Farrell, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The appointment of chartered accounting firm KPMG LLP was approved for the audit of the fiscal year 2010/11 following delivery of the report from the Finance and Audit Committee from its Chair Henry Pankratz.

Highlighting deficits incurred over the last several years, Mr. Pankratz cautioned: "Continuing on this path is unsustainable; we will run out of money. Furthermore, required by law, we are no longer allowed to run a deficit. As shown on the Statement of Financial Position we have an accumulated debt of \$5.9 million. It is precisely for these factors that the Board has taken the action it has to realign services so as to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the deficit, as well as repay the debt."

Chief of Staff Dr. David Broderick delivered a report highlighting the many patient care achievements of the past year which culminated in an outstanding Accreditation Canada report this spring. Noted in his presentation were the exceptional commitment NHH continues to receive from area physicians and the opportunities to enhance local care through new regional collaborations, such as the one developed in the past year with Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences in Whitby.

Recognized by Board Chair John Hudson for their service to the Hospital through the Board were three ex officio Board members who concluded their roles on June 17. Dale Hodge, who recently handed the role of NHH Auxiliary President over to Patricia Fenner, was commended for her generous service to NHH. Also thanked were Dr. Kathy Barnard-Thompson and Dr. David Moorsom, who stepped down as President and Vice President respectively of the medical staff.

At the first meeting of the Board of Directors held at the Hospital later the same evening it was confirmed that John Hudson will continue to serve as Board Chair. The new Vice Chair of the Board, replacing past Vice Chair Nick O'Nians, will be Henry Pankratz. Dr. Joe Parravano was welcomed by the Board as the new President of the Medical Staff, while Dr. Andrew Stratford assumed the role of Vice President, Medical Staff.

Also introduced at the meeting was the new Strategic Plan for 2010-2014. President and CEO Robert Biron provided an overview of the five strategic priorities that will guide the Hospital in the next four years, namely patients first; our team, our strength; operational excellence; collaborative networks; and building a sustainable future.

Said Mr. Biron: "Our challenges may be many, but we have the right team and the right plan to ensure we continue to thrive as a community hospital, providing you *'Exceptional Patient Care. Every time.'*"

Copies of the Hospital's 2009/10 Annual Report were distributed at the meeting. The Report will be shared with households throughout the catchment area in the Friday, June 18 edition of Northumberland News with electronic copies available shortly on the Hospital's website, [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca). For more information, please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@nhh.ca).

**About Northumberland Hills Hospital** – The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The acute care hospital delivers a broad range of services, including emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, complex/long-term care, rehabilitation, palliative care and obstetrical care. A variety of ambulatory care clinics are also offered at NHH. In addition to these, NHH also sponsors

a Community Mental Health Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs close to 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca).

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