



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

inspiring strength, dignity and compassion

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Northumberland Hills Hospital reaches out to area residents
at Public Roundtable Meeting**

Saturday, November 14, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Port Hope Public High School, Gymnasium
Pre-registration required

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Thursday, November 5, 2009 – Northumberland Hills Hospital invites area residents to participate in an important Public Roundtable Meeting on Saturday, November 14.

As part of its *Shared Challenge, Shared Solution* process, the Hospital will share information on its current financial situation and ask residents for input on the values and principles that will guide the development of contingency plans to balance the operating budget through changes to services.

WHEN: The Public Roundtable Meeting will take place on Saturday, November 14, from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

WHERE: Port Hope High School gymnasium, 130 Highland Dr., Port Hope

WHO: The Meeting is open to residents of the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand, but space is limited to 200 seats and pre-registration is required.

HOW: Pre-registration is available by phone or online. To register, please go to www.nhh.ca or call 1-800-369-7136. The deadline for registration is 9:00 PM on Thursday, November 12, 2009.

Background

The Public Roundtable Meeting is part of a broader community engagement process initiative from Northumberland Hills Hospital. Through a phone survey, the Hospital collected input this spring on the specific methods viewed to be most effective by west Northumberland residents for discussions related to service plans. The community's choice: community advisory panels and public forums.

Using a civic lottery to randomly select participants, the Hospital convened a special Citizens' Advisory Panel of 28 local residents. This Panel is the public extension of the Hospital's collaborative budget strategy, *Shared Challenge, Shared Solution*. While \$1.4 million in operating efficiencies have been identified with input from internal stakeholders at the Hospital (staff, physicians and volunteers), the Hospital is still projecting an operating deficit. At the same time, operating costs continue to rise, the demand for services continues to grow and revenues are not keeping pace with inflation.

Over the course of five Saturdays, the Panel is bringing the community's perspective to potential choices facing the Hospital's Board of Directors related to services provided at NHH. The Public Roundtable Meeting on November 14 is an opportunity to expand the discussion beyond the 28 Panel members, and enhance the Hospital's two-way communication channels with the public it serves. In small groups, residents will work alongside the Panel members through a series of activities designed to provide the Board with clear and constructive advice.

In announcing the creation of the Panel earlier this fall, NHH Board Chairman John Hudson said: "Our Board strongly believes that it is not only prudent, but of significant value, to engage our community when making decisions related to service delivery. While these are difficult times that require difficult choices, the best outcome can be achieved by having a two-way dialogue with our community."

To read more about the Hospital's collaborative budget process, please go to the *Shared Challenge, Shared Solution* area of the Hospital's website at www.nhh.ca. For further information please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The 137-bed 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. NHH 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.