



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NHH Annual Meeting concludes 2016/17 fiscal year with operating surplus - *Outgoing Chair, volunteers and Chief of Staff recognized, newcomers welcomed*

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, June 28th, 2017—Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) hosted its Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 22nd in the NHH Education Centre.

Chaired by **Jack Russell**, outgoing NHH Board Chair, the audience included Board Directors, volunteers, donors, local partners and health-care providers, staff, physicians, area residents and provincial representatives, including Northumberland Quinte-West MPP **Lou Rinaldi**.

Guest speaker **Melissa Farrell**, Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), delivered the keynote address. Farrell, who grew up in Port Hope and has family members in the area, provided an overview of five timely subjects relevant to local hospital services, including: health system transformation; the evolution of Local Health Integration Network sub-regions; Ontario's Alternate (or, to Farrell's preference, 'Appropriate') Level of Care Strategy; Health System Funding Reform (particular as it relates to medium-sized hospitals like NHH); and Ministry plans to improve access to specialists and specialty care.

Speaking to the work of health system transformation in general, and the *Patients First Act* in particular, Farrell said: "We've made some good progress getting the house built... now it is about making sure it is functioning appropriately – truly achieving that transformation."

Prior to her presentation, Farrell, the lead for the MOHLTC's System Quality and Funding Division, was invited by NHH President and CEO **Linda Davis** to tour NHH's successful Assess and Restore program. Highlighted in a panel discussion at last year's Annual Meeting, Assess and Restore is a unique intervention providing specialized care to frail seniors in the community, successfully returning them home, often with supports, at a higher rate than might have been seen had they received a traditional acute care stay. Farrell toured the unit with a Ministry of Health colleague and met with staff and caregiver representatives to learn more. Affirming it as "the vision we've had in our minds," she encouraged NHH to take advantage of new funding opportunities in the latest Ontario budget to bring forward a request to the Central East LHIN for further long-term funding.

Bill Gerber, Chair of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee, presented the NHH Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2017.

Despite projecting a significant operating deficit, NHH ended the year in a positive position, achieving an operating surplus of \$1,216,189 in 2016/17.

The turnaround was due in part to early implementation of revenue-generating and cost-reduction strategies identified in the Hospital Improvement Plan (HIP). Also a factor in the positive position was additional in-year base funding awarded to NHH by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term

Care and, just prior to year-end, two significant one-time funding allocations—one of \$422,900, representing the third and final installment under NHH's Working Funds Deficit Initiative, and a second, of \$349,700, to assist with operating pressures.

A balanced operating budget has been approved for fiscal 2017/18, signaling—in Jack Russell's words—"a long-awaited return to financial stability."

"NHH will continue to work cooperatively with its partners at the Central East Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care," said Gerber, "to continue to balance our accountabilities of financial stewardship and exceptional patient care."

KPMG's **Vicki Leakey** presented a positive Auditors' Report. The audited financial statements were accepted as presented and auditors KPMG LLP were appointed again as auditors for fiscal year 2017/18.

The Chair's report followed the update on the hospital's financial position. **Jack Russell** referred attendees to his written message, available in NHH's [2016/17 Report to the Community](#) released at the meeting, and shared a number of additional comments, including special recognition of outgoing Board Director Bill Gerber (Ward 2, Cobourg), who concluded nine years on the Board at the June meeting.

Chair of the NHH Finance and Audit Committee since 2011, Russell noted that Gerber has had a key role "stewarding the hospital through some of the most significant funding formula change in Ontario hospital history." Gerber, who will continue to support the NHH Board for another year as a Community Committee volunteer, was also thanked for his service on the Board's Facilities and Campus Development Committee and the CEO/Chief of Staff Evaluation and Compensation Committee.

Outgoing Board Director **Kristy Hook**, who resigned from the Board due to her family's relocation to Peterborough, was also recognized at the June 22nd meeting.

Formerly a Registered Midwife, and the first of her profession to hold privileges at NHH, Hook, who represented Port Hope (Ward 1), joined the Board as a Director in June 2016 after serving as a Community Committee volunteer on both the Governance and Finance and Audit Committees.

Recognizing the benefit of her clinical background to Board discussion, Russell said: "Kristy, we are very sorry to be losing your voice on our Board. You have been a strong advocate for local patients and their families. We thank you for your service in the past year and we look forward to seeing how you will serve your new community of Peterborough in the years ahead."

A third Board member marked her last Annual Meeting as a Director at the June 22nd meeting. **Louise Stevenson**, an ex officio member of the NHH Board for the past three years by virtue of her role as Chair of the NHH Foundation Board, concluded her term the prior night at the NHH Foundation's Annual Meeting, passing the Chair role to **Tyler Hathway**.

"Louise joined our Board in an interim capacity for **Bill Copeland** in 2014, and then as a full representative, when she assumed the role of Foundation Chair, in 2015," said Russell.

"Louise has actually served on the Foundation Board for a decade, and in that time has had a hand in almost all of its major events and activities, including: chairing the Gala Cabinet for three years, chairing the Caring for Generations Society, also for three years, and serving as an ex

officio but participating member of all committees of the Foundation, including Finance and Planned Giving.”

Recognizing the essential role the Foundation plays in raising local dollars to provide for NHH’s capital equipment needs, to loud applause Russell thanked the Foundation for the \$1,850,099 in community donations in the past year alone and the more than \$38 million contributed since the hospital opened in 2003.

“Louise, as the Chair of the Foundation in recent years, you’ve played a very important role in its success. We look forward to welcoming your successor, Tyler Hathway, to our Board table, and we thank you very much for your contribution to NHH through the Foundation. We simply couldn’t be the hospital we are today, or strive to be tomorrow, without this ongoing community support.”

Russell also recognized the exceptional work of the NHH Auxiliary.

“The Auxiliary provided \$210,000 this past year to NHH—\$60,000 over their own target—raised largely through their very successful retail efforts,” said Russell. These dollars also support our capital equipment priorities.”

The NHH Auxiliary itself has now exceeded the \$2 million in terms of the dollars it has raised for this hospital since it opened in 2003—and this is on top of the thousands of hours of volunteer support contributed this past year.

“Many of the priorities outlined in our new Strategic Plan simply wouldn’t be possible without the assistance of our Foundation and Auxiliary,” said Russell. “On behalf of the Board and the entire hospital team, thank you.”

Thanking his fellow Board members, community committee volunteers and the NHH staff and physicians, Russell said: “I do believe we have come through the challenges of recent years a stronger and more focused organization, better connected to our partners, patients and each other, including our LHIN.”

Outgoing Chief of Staff (COS) **Dr. David Broderick** was also recognized at the Annual Meeting.

A family physician, Broderick has served for 13 years in the COS role, and 14 years as a physician on the Board. Though he will continue to care for patients in the community and at NHH, next month he will hand the COS office over to **Dr. Mukesh Bhargava**.

Reflecting on Dr. Broderick’s interesting career path, which included training at Military College from age 17, a degree in engineering, a role as a military pilot—flying Sea King helicopters for the navy from the deck of a destroyer—and, finally, a long career in medicine, first as a flight surgeon and, later, a regional administrative physician, Russell joked: “On his retirement from the Canadian military, David said he was looking for a little something to do.... I do not think he has stopped since he ‘retired’.”

Dr. Broderick started taking shifts in the Emergency Department at the former Cobourg hospital in the fall of 1996. Together with Drs. Amin, Wilson and Cross he formed the Cobourg Medical Centre that same year—a busy practice now located just across the street from NHH at the Gateway Plaza.

In 2003 Broderick gave up his Emergency shifts and instead opted to join the Board as VP of the General Medical Staff, becoming Chief of Staff the following year.

“David, on behalf of the Board, thank you for your years of dedication to NHH and this community as our Chief of Staff,” said Russell. “You are leaving us in a very strong position.”

The contribution of the Board’s second direct report, President and CEO Linda Davis, was also recognized. Jack Russell credited Davis with several key achievements of the past year, beginning with the return to financial stability, continued development of increased community palliative care support, the successful launch of NHH’s inaugural Patient and Family Advisory Council, promotion and funding advocacy for NHH’s Assess and Restore initiative, the creation of new regional roles, and a successful strategic planning process culminating in a new four-year Strategic Plan now available on NHH’s recently refreshed website.

“Linda oversaw all this while operating a facility at well over 110 per cent capacity for a large part of the year,” said Russell. “Thank you for your hard work and your dedication to NHH and the people we serve.”

Linda Davis delivered remarks of her own at the meeting, also referring guests to her written highlights from the year in the *Annual Report*. Crediting the team with the Hospital’s progress in the past 12 months, Davis highlighted a number of challenges experienced in the past year and how these challenges provided opportunities to grow and develop as an organization. The very positive results, she said, “were due in large part to the perseverance of the Board, the great work of the management and physician leadership team and the commitment of our staff and volunteers to continually do what is needed for the patients NHH serves.”

Incoming Board Chair **Elizabeth Selby** delivered the Board’s thanks to outgoing Board Chair Jack Russell. Russell, who will continue to serve on the Board for one more year in 2017/18, was first elected to the NHH Board in June, 2009. He has been a member of all but one of the Committees of the Board and served as Chair of the Board since June, 2014.

Recounting the many notable milestones and health system changes that have occurred during his time on the Board, Selby highlighted the fact that Russell joined the Board just following the establishment of the Local Health Integration Networks. Since then he has played a key role addressing numerous quality and financial sustainability efforts, including NHH’s Citizens’ Advisory Panel (2009-10) and, more recently the Coaching Review (2015) and the External Operational Review (2016). As Chair he presided over the development of the four-year Hospital Improvement Plan now being implemented and has been involved in the development of two strategic plans while adapting to major legislative changes to health quality oversight including the *Excellent Care for All Act* (2010), the *Patients First Act* (2016) and the related *Patients First Action Plan for Health Care*.

“Jack, on behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you very much for your exemplary leadership,” said Selby. “You have worked tirelessly to ensure the viability of our community hospital. You have listened and given thoughtful consideration to ideas put forward by members of the Board, physicians and staff, and our community. Thank you!”

Pam Went, Chair, delivered the report of the Board’s Nominating Committee. Two Director appointments were endorsed: **Michael McAllister**, a Chartered Professional Accountant from Cobourg (Ward 2) was appointed for a three-year term. McAllister joined the Board as a Community Committee volunteer in June 2015, gaining experience on both the Finance and Audit and Quality and Safety Committees, and attending many Board meetings as an observer.

“Michael brings added financial expertise to the Board table, as well as a range of other skills relevant to hospital governance including strategic planning, facilities management, information technology and project management,” said Went.

Also approved at the June 22nd meeting was the appointment of **David Slater** of Grafton (in Ward 3), also for three-year term. Slater also joined the Board from a seat at two Community Committee tables, namely Governance and Finance and Audit. He brings senior human resources expertise including performance and succession management, and employee relations gained during more than 20 years with the Government of Ontario.

Three Director re-elections were also approved. **Lynda Kay** and **Tom McLean** (Ward 2) were both re-elected for a three-year term while **Elizabeth Selby** (Ward 3) was re-elected for the same. Dr. **Mukesh Bhargava**, incoming Chief of Staff, was appointed as an ex-officio Director for a one-year term, together with President and CEO **Linda Davis**.

By-Law amendments were also approved at the meeting. "Our Hospital By-Laws are reviewed on a regular basis, to ensure we are meeting current governance best practices and our local and provincial accountabilities as a public hospital," said Went. This year's amendments, described as "the housekeeping variety," were approved as circulated to Members.

Concluding the meeting, outgoing Board Chair Jack Russell thanked all who had supported him during his three-year term, including the Board Directors, donors and volunteers, the broad physician network active at NHH and the staff. Special thanks were extended to those who served as Russell's mentors, past Chair Doug Mann and, as recognized in 2016, previous Chair John Hudson. Russell presented incoming COS Dr. Mukesh Bhargava and incoming Chair Elizabeth Selby with Dr. Danielle Martin's new book on health care, acquired at the recent Northumberland Port Hope Community Health Centre's AGM, to help prepare them for their new roles. Finally, Russell presented a large bouquet to his wife, Pam Russell, in gratitude for the many hours of family time shared with the hospital on Board duties in recent years.

At the Board meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting, Board Directors unanimously appointed **Elizabeth Selby** as the Board's new Chair for the next year. Also appointed unanimously were **Pam Went** (Ward 3), First Vice-Chair, and **Lynda Kay** (Ward 2), Second Vice-Chair.

Updates to the NHH Board's full membership listing will be published on nhh.ca before the Board resumes regular monthly meetings this fall. NHH's *2016/17 Annual Report to the Community*, released in hard copy at the meeting, will be [found here](#), under About NHH at nhh.ca, in local copies of Northumberland News on Thursday, June 29th, or on request from the hospital's Public Affairs office (905-377-7757). Contact: Jennifer Gillard, jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. 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 approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).