



# NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

## NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Virtual Annual Meeting concludes hospital's 2021/22 fiscal year – *Annual Report to the Community* released**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**—The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) Board of Directors hosted a virtual Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 28th. Held on Zoom, the meeting was chaired by **Pam Went**, who formally concluded her three-year term as Board Chair at the June meeting.

Opening remarks commenced with a formal territorial acknowledgement delivered by Hospital President and CEO, **Susan Walsh**. **Pam Went** called the meeting to order pursuant to the By-Laws, welcoming Board Directors and Community Committee members, hospital staff and physicians, and guests.

Following approval of the minutes of the June 2021 Annual Meeting, **Tom McLean**, Chair of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee, presented the NHH Financial Statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, referencing in the course of his remarks the [detailed financial statements](#) published prior to the meeting on the hospital website.

“NHH continues to benefit from a strong bottom line as we appear to move out of a two-year pandemic. This is in no small part due to the strong leadership of our President and CEO, Susan Walsh, the Senior Leadership Team, and all staff who stepped up during the most trying of times,” said McLean.

**Lori Huber**, representing NHH auditor KPMG, presented a positive Auditor's Report. The audited financial statements were accepted as presented and auditors KPMG LLP were appointed again as auditors for fiscal year 2022/23.

A motion from **Elizabeth (Beth) Selby**, Chair of the Governance Committee, to accept the Corporate and Professional Bylaws as presented, was also passed.

The Board Chair's report followed as **Pam Went** began her address reflecting on the challenges and achievements of the past fiscal year which, in addition to effectively managing the operation of the Hospital during a pandemic, included the successful recruitment of a new President and CEO and implementation of a new regional Clinical Information System (CIS).

In addition to her written review of the year, which will be found on pages 3-4 in the [2021/22 Annual Report to the Community](#), Went recognized the essential contributions of the [NHH Foundation](#), NHH Auxiliary, Senior Leadership Team, [Patient Family](#)

[Advisory Council \(PFAC\)](#), and the [Ontario Health Team Northumberland \(OHT-N\)](#), paying special mention to the contributions of all of the above to the development of NHH's upcoming strategic plan.

"It can be difficult to think about the future when the present is coloured by an ever-present pandemic, but NHH must begin to prepare for the needs of the people of west Northumberland County 20 to 30 years from now," said Went. "The Senior Team and the Board, with participation from the NHH Foundation, Auxiliary, Patient and Family Advisory Council, NHH staff and physicians and the collaboration of the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland, have taken an innovative approach to building a strategic plan for the hospital."

Went also took an opportunity to thank **Catharine Tozer**, of Ward 1\*, who completed three terms as a Board Director at the June meeting. Tozer will continue for an additional year in the role of Community Member.

Board member **Dave Slater**, of Ward 3\*, will be retiring and was thanked for his service to the hospital. In addition to serving most recently as second Vice Chair of the Board, Dave provided leadership to two Board Committees—Governance and Facilities and Campus Development—both of which he served as chair. Slater was also recognized for his work on the potential Health Centre project.

Went also recognized **Dr. Fraser Cameron** who served as the President of the Medical Staff Association and an ex-Officio Board Member. His service also extended to the Board's Quality and Safety Committee with Went noting, "It is very important that the Board be aware of the perspectives of the physician community and Dr. Cameron has represented the doctors working at NHH and those providing primary care in the community exceptionally well. The Board has also appreciated his excellent attendance at, and contributions to, the Quality and Safety Committee. Thank you for your service, Dr. Cameron." **Dr. Jude Obomighie** was welcomed as the incoming President of the Medical Staff Association.

Went concluded her report by thanking those who offered support during her two years as Board Chair. "This is my final official act as Board Chair, and I would like to thank Susan Thivierge, Susan Walsh, and the Senior Leadership Team for their support. I am similarly grateful to the Board Directors and Community Members for making my job easy. You truly are the best governors that I have come across in my 28 years of not-for-profit Board work. I am so pleased that I still have two years left as a Director, so that I can continue to work with you."

Following her final address, Went introduced **Susan Walsh**, President and CEO, to deliver personal remarks.

In addition to written highlights published in the [Annual Report](#). Walsh touched on the NHH team's adaptability throughout the many uncertainties of COVID-19, saying, "As we navigate another year of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, NHH has continued to forge ahead through the most uncertain times. With each wave of the pandemic, we saw ourselves called to meet a new challenge. From vaccine distribution to COVID-19 assessment and testing and visitor screening, without fail, the team stepped up with

creative solutions and a willingness to adapt, as an organization, to whatever was needed.”

Also recognized by Walsh were the many partners NHH has worked with in the community, who she thanked “for the support given to NHH over the past years. Thank you, we have truly been stronger together.”

Walsh’s report also highlighted the positive operational changes, developments, and achievements that NHH experienced over the last year.

Building further on Board Chair Pam Went’s callout to the new CIS, Walsh said: “We successfully completed the implementation phase of NHH’s transformation to a new digital Clinical Information System (CIS). NHH launched on December 3 together with six other Central East region hospital partners. NHH is now in the stabilization phase and in the months ahead will turn to optimization. The achievement of this milestone in the midst of a prolonged pandemic and health human resource shortage is without precedent and we celebrated this as the fiscal year drew to a close. Internally, we expanded our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDIAC) to further advance our commitment to providing a healthy, safe and equitable work environment for all staff, physicians, midwives, volunteers, patients and guests of NHH. Through a mix of education, celebration and discussion with staff, patient and family advisors alike, this work will continue in 2022/23.”

In her final remarks, Walsh announced that NHH’s strategic plan was nearing finalization and would have an emphasis on growth. Walsh said: “The primary focus of the strategic planning process is the growth of our organization over the next three to five years to meet the needs of our expanding (and aging) community.”

Following Susan Walsh’s address, **Cyndi Gilmer** delivered the report of the Board’s Nominating Committee. The Board endorsed the Committee’s recommendation that **Laurel Savoy** and **Kendra Simmons** (both residents of Ward 2)\* be elected for a three-year term.

Finally, two re-appointments of ex officio Board members were approved, both for one-year terms:

- **Dr. Mukesh Bhargava**, Chief of Staff
- **Susan Walsh**, President and CEO

At the Board meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting, Board Directors unanimously appointed **Beth Selby** as the Board’s Chair for 2022/23 fiscal year. Also appointed unanimously was **Tom McLean** as Vice-Chair.

For more information on the NHH Board of Directors, please see the Accountability tab of [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca). As noted above, NHH’s [2021/22 Annual Report to the Community](#) is available now on the hospital’s website. Copies are available in alternate formats on request from the hospital’s Public Affairs office (905-377-7757).

**Media contact:** Jennifer Gillard, Senior Director, Patient Experience, Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, [jjillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jjillard@nhh.ca) or 905-377-7757.

\*As noted on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca), Board members serve from one of three wards:

Ward 1 is the Municipality of Port Hope

Ward 2 is the Town of Cobourg

Ward 3 is all other townships within the Hospital's West Northumberland catchment area (Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand)

**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 3 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, Alderville First Nation and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs more than 700 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians, midwives and volunteers. NHH is an active member of Ontario Health (East)—formerly the Central East Local Health Integration Network—and the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland. For more information, please visit [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca) or follow us on Facebook [@northumberlandhillshosp](https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandhillshosp) or Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp). Media contact: Jennifer Gillard, Senior Director, Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, at 905-377-7757 or [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@nhh.ca).

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