



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Registered Nurses, Physiotherapist and Ward Clerk recognized with 2017 Gerontological Excellence Awards at NHH

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Thursday, October 5, 2017—Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) recognizes staff members throughout the year for both personal and team accomplishments. At the latest staff forum held Wednesday, October 4th, the winners of the hospital's fifth annual Gerontological Excellence Awards were announced.

A celebration of individual contributions to the delivery of exceptional patient care for those over the age of 65, the Award underscores the fact that gerontology is not a department or a unit at NHH, it is a specialty that involves every member of the hospital team.

As such, nominations for the Gerontological Excellence Award are open to all staff members. Again this year, nominations were accepted throughout the month June, which Ontario has designated as Seniors' Month. Of the 2017 nominees, four stood out for the care they take to support NHH's older patients in their care.

Recognized with 2017 Gerontological Excellence Awards are: **Marie-Rose Meunier-Wescott**, Registered Nurse, Restorative Care; **Cathy Rylott**, Physiotherapist, Inpatient Rehabilitation; **Danielle Kohlman**, Registered Nurse, Emergency Department; and, **Cindy Roffey**, Ward Clerk, Restorative Care. Below are highlights from the remarks made by President and CEO Linda Davis in her October 4th presentation.

Recommended for the award by several of her peers for her work on Restorative Care, **Marie-Rose Meunier-Wescott** was described in her nomination as "exemplary" in her skill at displaying a kind and gentle approach when working with frail seniors and their caregivers. Particularly emphasized was her work with some of the more challenging and complex geriatric situations. Said one colleague: "Marie-Rose is a tremendous asset to our Restorative Care Unit at NHH." Further accolades described her "as an icon to selflessness and a very strong woman."

Cathy Rylott, Physiotherapist, was nominated for her trademark gentle and caring approach to patients in her care in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit, and her ability to collaborate with others, and pull members of the team together to help frail seniors in the community achieve their goals and independence.

Said one nominee, Cathy "is very patient-focused throughout the discharge process." This work is key "as discharge from hospital to home can be a very anxious and challenging time for older adults with multiple complex conditions and their caregivers."

Danielle Kohlman, Registered Nurse, was nominated by her peers in the Emergency Department, who described her as "outstanding with the older adult population," and particular good at balancing the complexities of gerontology with a very busy Emergency environment.

Danielle's colleagues described her as a "go-to person" for quickly finding the right techniques to "manage the [urgency] of the ED with the time required to assess the needs of complex seniors and of seniors with cognitive impairment."

Cindy Roffey, Ward Clerk, Restorative Care, received many nominations but the act that stood out as most memorable to her peers in the past year was the special care she provided to an older patient with dementia.

"Not only did you maintain your daily, very busy work routine as a Ward Clerk, Cindy – at the same time you developed a beautiful and purposeful routine for this patient," said Davis. "I understand he would sit with you and be with you, literally, beside your desk, most days during his stay with us."

Nominations for Cindy also highlighted the key role she plays in NHH's Assess and Restore Intervention—specifically, the major part she plays in the important collaboration with the Emergency Department and the Geriatric Emergency Management Nurse to positively impact patient flow and communication between the units to get complex, frail seniors into the right bed at the right time.

Also recognized at the Award presentation was **Sarah Gibbens, NHH's Geriatric Emergency Management nurse**, and the coordinator behind the annual recognition event as well as many other hospital initiatives aimed at expanding staff awareness of the unique needs of geriatric patients.

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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 more than 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).