



# NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

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

### **NHH balances operating budget for second consecutive year while investing in strategic priorities**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, June 25th, 2012** – The Annual and Special Meeting of the Members of Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) took place last Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, in the Education Centre at the hospital.

John Hudson, outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors, thanked and introduced the 2011/12 Board and the community volunteers who supported its committee work in the past year before welcoming the evening's keynote speaker, Dr. Veronique Boscart.

Dr. Boscart, whose academic positions include a Canadian Institute of Health Research/Schlegel Research Chair in Enhanced Seniors Care at the Research Institute of Aging - University of Waterloo and Conestoga College, has extensive nursing experience earned as a clinician, nurse educator, manager and research in an international setting. The focus of her address to NHH was the value of compassionate, nurse/patient relationships and the impact of person-centred care in achieving positive health outcomes.

Bill Gerber, Chair of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee, provided a summary of NHH's Financial Report for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, noting: "2011/12 marked the second consecutive year that NHH has achieved a balanced operating position, ending the fiscal year with a small operating surplus of \$78,183." Staff and management were acknowledged for the time and hard work they invested so that NHH might achieve this goal.

The Auditors' Report was presented by KPMG LLP's Vicki Leakey, and members approved the re-appointment of the firm as the hospital's external auditors for fiscal year 2012/13.

Remarks from Board Chair John Hudson included a tribute to the years of wise counsel provided by the late Nick O'Nians. Nick passed away suddenly in February, 2012, while serving his 10<sup>th</sup> and final year as Director on the NHH Board. Two of his children, daughters Janet Vella and Katherine Maguire, attended the Annual Meeting to receive the Board's appreciation for their father's service to NHH.

First Vice-Chair Doug Mann provided a summary of the achievements of John Hudson over his three-year term as Board Chair at NHH, thanking him for his dedicated service to his hospital and community, and for his leadership during a period of considerable

transformation both at NHH and in the hospital sector at large. Though June's meeting marked the end of John Hudson's term as Chair, he remains on the Board as a Director.

A report from President and CEO Robert Biron highlighted specific NHH achievements in the past year in areas including operational efficiency, infection prevention and regional leadership in senior-friendly care. NHH's selection as host agency for the Central East Local Health Integration Network's Regional Specialized Geriatric Services entity was cited as a significant accomplishment, as was the hospital's role in the new Northumberland PATH project, funded through a \$3-million research grant from The Change Foundation.

The final order of business was the report of the Board's Nominating Committee, brought forward by Director Heather Sculthorpe. The Nominating Committee recommended a slate of candidates for the four vacancies on the Board with their respective wards and terms. In accordance with the hospital Bylaws, Heather Sculthorpe cast her vote in favour of the slate, and declared the following elected by acclamation:

Tom Sears, Ward 1, 3-year term;  
John Farrell, Ward 2, 1-year term;  
Doug Mann, Ward 3, 3-year term; and  
Bob Carman, Ward 3, 3-year term.

At the Board meeting immediately following the Annual and Special Meeting of the Members, Board Directors unanimously appointed Doug Mann as the Board's new Chair. Also appointed unanimously were Jack Russell (First Vice-Chair), and Beth Brook (Second Vice-Chair).

A complete listing of NHH Board members and community committee volunteers is available at [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca); the hospital's *2011/12 Annual Report* will be found in the same website's Document Archive.

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**About Northumberland Hills Hospital** – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, and obstetrical care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care, rehabilitation and palliative care. 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](http://www.nhh.ca).