



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NHH celebrates efficiency and progress on patient care priorities at Annual Meeting, June 20th

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, June 24th, 2013 – The Annual and Special Meeting of the Members of Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) was held at the hospital on Thursday, June 20th.

Doug Mann, Chair of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, thanking and introducing the 2012/13 Board and community volunteers before welcoming the evening's keynote speaker, gerontology expert Maryanne Brown.

With close to 30 years of experience in gerontology, Brown shared with attendees her insight into NHH's commitment to become a centre of excellence in gerontology and "achieve the best for older persons at NHH." Her presentation detailed the strategy, tactics and specific impact of the hospital's recent efforts to enhance care for seniors and their caregivers.

Interim President and CEO Helen Brenner delivered an overview of the year's achievements against the priorities set out in NHH's current Strategic Plan. Among the highlights noted were the quality and safety seals of approval received from Accreditation Canada and the Ontario Laboratory Association, as well as the growth of local outpatient mental health services and chemotherapy services through successful regional partnerships with Ontario Shores and the Central East Regional Cancer Program at Lakeridge Health, respectively.

Expanding on Ontario hospitals' need to develop new and innovative partnerships to address operating pressures and deliver high quality, fiscally responsible care at the right time, at the right place, Brenner pointed to the Northumberland Partners Advancing Transitions in Healthcare (PATH) project, now under way with [The Change Foundation](#), and the proposed integration of community support services and community health centre agencies in Northumberland as positive examples.

Proposed as a new "cluster-based service delivery model" by hospital funders, the Central East LHIN, integration discussions are now being facilitated by the LHIN between seven parties, including Northumberland Hills Hospital, Campbellford Memorial Hospital and the Port Hope Community Health Centre, to consider integration of front-line services, back office functions, leadership and/or governance. For more information [click here](#) or visit the Central East LHIN website at www.centraleastlin.on.ca and click on Resource Documents – Integration – Community Health Services Integration – Community Health Services Integration Strategy – North East Cluster.

Bill Gerber, Chair of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee, delivered a summary of NHH's financial report for the year ended March 31st, 2013.

"2012/13 marked the first year of implementation for a new funding model for our sector known as Health System Funding Reform, or HSFR," explained Gerber. "In this new world, operating funds are now flowed to hospitals through two primary components: a population health-based funding formula known as HBAM (Health Based Allocation Model) and Quality Based Procedures (QBP)—funding based on certain types and quantities of patients treated, using rates calculated on a formula of efficiency and best practice."

"The good news is that our hospital continues to operate very efficiently," said Gerber, praising staff for the fact that NHH was rewarded for that efficiency with a 2 per cent increase in HBAM funding in fiscal year 2012/13 – "the highest amount allowed this year."

NHH's strong performance from a wait time perspective resulted in an 18 per cent increase in the number of cataract surgeries. "Also good news," noted Gerber.

"Despite our efficiency and strong wait time performance, however, we ended the 2012/13 fiscal year with an operating shortfall of \$752,955 – just 1.2 per cent of total revenue, but nevertheless a shortfall."

The gap is attributed to several factors. Higher than expected costs for staffing and medical supplies due to increased activity was one factor referenced by Gerber. The loss of more than \$500,000 in preferred accommodation revenue due to changes in patient insurance coverage, infection control requirements that called for patient isolations and higher-than-normal occupancy during a Christmas season patient surge was another.

While hospital leaders have been able to develop a balanced operating budget for the current 2013/14 operating year, changes to implement it triggered restructuring costs of \$437,887 in 2012/13 – more than half of the operating deficit.

Said Gerber: "Mid-sized hospitals like NHH will continue to be challenged to balance the care needs of the local population with the requirements of the new funding model. We have our work cut out for us, but we are committed to working together with our funders and our community partners to find ways to achieve higher quality and more affordable care."

The Auditors' Report was presented by KPMG LLP's Michelle Podhy, and members approved the re-appointment of the firm as the hospital's external auditors for fiscal year 2013/14.

Remarks from Board Chair Doug Mann included a thank you to the community physicians and volunteers who generously support NHH through their time, talents and donations. Mann also paid tribute to outgoing Board Director Kaye Jackson, who concluded her second three-year term on the Board at the June meeting.

The final order of business was the report of the Board's Nominating Committee, presented 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:

- Catharine Tozer, Ward 1 - appoint for a 3-year term
- John Hudson, Ward 1 - reappoint for a 3-year term
- Christine Stewart, Ward 2 - reappoint for a 3-year term
- John Farrell, Ward 2 - reappoint for a 1-year term
- Jack Russell, Ward 3 - reappoint for a 3-year term

At the Board meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Members, Board Directors unanimously appointed Doug Mann as the Board's Chair for 2013/14. 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; the hospital's [2012/13 Annual Report](#) will be found in the same website's Document Archive.

For more information please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jqillard@nhh.ca.

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.