



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two local students receive Health Professions Scholarship from NHH

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, August 22nd, 2012 – The recipients of Northumberland Hills Hospital’s annual Health Professions Scholarships were announced today.

Introduced by Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) in 2003, the Scholarship Program has been recognizing local students for their academic achievements and community service for almost a decade. This year’s recipients -- Rachel Schoon and Samantha Schmachtel – received their \$1,000 award from NHH Board Chair Doug Mann at the opening of the August meeting of the Quality and Safety Committee of the Board.

“By helping local students achieve their academic goals, we hope to encourage them to consider opportunities at NHH when the time comes to select an employer,” said Doug Mann, before sharing details about each recipient’s accomplishments with the Committee members.

“This year’s recipients have demonstrated a very inspiring combination of intelligence, kindness and commitment to community service. The values and work ethic that these young women share are a tribute to the support they’ve received from their families, teachers and mentors. We congratulate them on their achievements and we wish them all the best as they work toward their goals.”

Rachel Schoon

Rachel will begin her first year as a medical student at the University of Dalhousie’s School of Medicine in Halifax, Nova Scotia this September.

Born and raised in Port Hope, she graduated with honours from Port Hope High School in 2002. Very actively involved in her school and her community throughout her high school years, Rachel’s contributions have earned her numerous community awards, including the Collins & Aikman Scholarship for General Proficiency and a Port Hope Civic Award for outstanding contribution to community service.

In 2006 Rachel graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Sciences, Honours Biochemistry degree from the University of Western Ontario in 2006. For the past three years she has worked as a clinical genetics technologist at IWK Health Centre in Halifax after obtaining the necessary certification from Toronto’s Michener Institute of Applied Health Sciences.

While she has enjoyed her experience as a genetics technologist Rachel is keen to be more involved in patients' overall care. Accepted into the University of Dalhousie's class of 2016, Rachel plans to work towards a residency in either family medicine or oncology, where she hopes to find the patient interaction she is looking for, and the possibility of working in the community in which she was raised.

In addition to very strong academic performance, Rachel has sustained a steady commitment to volunteerism, from her days in Port Hope through her undergraduate studies in London and, most recently, in Halifax. A letter of reference from the Executive Director of Atlantic Canada's Ronald McDonald House in Halifax describes Rachel as an "outstanding" volunteer, "smart and kind" with "compassion, integrity, interest and incredible common sense skills" that will be well suited to her career choice of medicine.

Samantha Schmachtel

Samantha will enter her third year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Ryerson University this fall, with a plan to graduate in the class of 2014. A graduate of the Cobourg District Collegiate Institute West in 2010, Samantha achieved an impressive final year average of 85 per cent while juggling numerous volunteer activities including volunteer service at Streamway Villa, a local long-term care home, and NHH.

Samantha credits her volunteer experiences with her decision to pursue a career in health care. Introduced to NHH in 2009 through a cooperative education placement in the Dialysis and Chemotherapy units, she noted in her scholarship application that her mentors "went above and beyond to provide me with the most optimal educational experience and arranged for me to explore many of the different health care fields within the hospital." As a result, she continued to support NHH as a volunteer the summer following her cooperative placement.

Instructors and volunteer advisors alike strongly endorsed Samantha's goals in the references they provided for her application to the NHH scholarship, singling out her strengths of "compassion" and "dedication."

Samantha looks forward to the continuous learning and intellectual complexity offered by nursing, and hopes to take advantage of the flexibility of the degree to explore its many specialties later in her career. Planning to return to the community after her studies are complete, Samantha expressed a specific interest to be part of the NHH team.

Applicants for the NHH Health Professions Scholarship must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a full-time study program. Full details, including the application form, are available on the Hospital's website at www.nhh.ca. The deadline for applications for the 2013 scholarships is February 15, 2013. For more information please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@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 Alwick/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.

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