



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Staff, physicians recognized with service, education and leadership awards at largest ever annual NHH ceremony

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, May 26th, 2014 — 90 staff members and community physicians were recognized for achievements in service, education and leadership last week at the Northumberland Hills Hospital's annual staff recognition ceremony—so many, in fact, organizers had to split the evening event into two two-hour parts to accommodate the large crowd.

Individuals recruited to support the new hospital at the time of its opening in October 2003 formed the largest contingent of award recipients this year, as 55 staff members were recognized with 10-year pins.

Hosted May 22nd in the hospital Education Centre by President and CEO Linda Davis, the event is an opportunity for the Board and management to highlight the people whose efforts make Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) what it is today, and recognize particular achievements from the past year.

"This is my first long service award ceremony at NHH," said Linda Davis, "but I can see it is a very important tradition. I did a quick calculation: we are recognizing more than 1,180 years of service tonight, in addition to our other awards. That is something to celebrate!"

Doug Mann, Chair of NHH's Board of Directors, announced awards for five physicians recognized for long-service milestones. He shared a brief history on each and thanked them for their commitment to NHH and the community.

Highlighting the essential role local general practitioners play in the community hospital, Mann said: "From providing in-hospital support to their admitted in-patients, to taking Emergency Department shifts and delivering babies, family physicians are essential to the day-to-day functioning of NHH."

Recognized for 35 years of distinguished service was **Dr. Andrew Emery**. A member of the Cobourg Medical Centre group, Dr. Emery has held Active Family Medicine privileges at the hospital since June 1978, supporting countless numbers of patients in obstetrics, in-patient care, intensive care and the emergency department. An Advanced Cardiac Life Support instructor, he has provided in-house education on this skill for many years. Most recently, Dr. Emery completed the requirements for the designation of coroner.

Dr. Mark Azzopardi of Port Hope was recognized for 25 years of dedicated service. Dr. Azzopardi received Associate status on the medical staff of what was then the Port Hope and District Hospital in July 1988 followed by Active Staff privileges from 1990 onward at first Port Hope and, in 1997, the Northumberland Health Care Corporation, a status he has maintained, now at NHH, ever since. In January of this year Dr. Azzopardi co-assumed the patient loads of two Port Hope colleagues on their retirement. Dr. Azzopardi has served as medical advisor to

NHH's Palliative Care Program and has held various committee posts, representing the hospital at the local and regional levels. From June 1996 to July 1998 he served as the hospital's Chief of Staff.

Dr. Jeffrey Knackstedt was recognized for 20 years of service. In the summer of 1993 Dr. Knackstedt established his family medicine and GP-anesthesia practice in Port Hope where he has maintained his community-based family practice ever since. He has held a number of medical leadership posts throughout his tenure including Chair, Credentials Committee and Chair, Medicine, Pharmacy and Therapeutics in addition to serving on the hospital board in the late 1990s.

"More recently, Dr. Knackstedt's participation in NHH's hospitalist program has contributed immensely to the sustainability of this program which provides in-patient care to patients who do not have a family doctor or whose family physicians do not have local hospital privileges," said Doug Mann. "Congratulations on two decades of exceptional patient care and thank you for your dedicated service to NHH."

In addition to the three general practitioners two radiologists were recognized. **Drs. Paul and Frank Marrocco** were each thanked by the Board Chair for two decades of service.

"Dr. Frank Marrocco was instrumental in bringing the CT (computed tomography) service to our community with the opening of the present hospital site. Prior to this, patients requiring CT had to travel close to an hour to a regional centre. Dr. Frank Marrocco is the Medical Director of the CT service in the Diagnostic Imaging Department here at NHH today.

Dr. Paul Marrocco, with his expertise in interventional radiology, has provided patients from our catchment area the opportunity to have various needle biopsies performed here at NHH. Paul also has specialized expertise in breast imaging and is the Medical Director of the NHH Mammography and Ontario Breast Screening Program.

Congratulations to both of these distinguished radiologists for their commitment to NHH and Northumberland."

In addition to the large contingent of 10-year pin recipients, 26 health professionals were recognized by their managers for 15 to 40 years, including Patient Accounts Coordinator **Pam Oakman** (30 years), RN **Brenda Ough** and RPN **Mary Anne Shaw** (35 years) and RN **Nancy Linton** and Ward Clerk **Louise Rusk** (40 years). A further four were recognized for significant educational achievements.

The announcement of the 2014 recipients of NHH's Leadership and Innovation awards concluded the evening.

NHH's Ontario Telemedicine Coordinator **Patti Ley** was recognized with this year's Outstanding Leadership Award. Presented annually to a member of the hospital team who has demonstrated an outstanding ability to take command of a project or situation, the peer-nominated award recognized Patti's work in expanding NHH's Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) program.

"As I saw first-hand when I had an opportunity to shadow her several weeks ago, she is a true leader," said Linda Davis. "Patti has very effectively promoted the OTN program—a two-way video conferencing system that enables clinical consultations and educational opportunities that might not otherwise be available without travel to another centre."

A Registered Nurse by training, Patti's clinical knowledge combined with her creativity led her to offer a range of creative approaches to educate the team about OTN, including open houses, one-on-one presentations and the development of customized local promotional materials.

Working with her OTN counterparts at a regional level, Patti has developed policies and procedures necessary to support and grow the OTN program at NHH. She took on responsibility for maintaining and securing new OTN equipment for the hospital, such as the telederm camera, which permits a consulting physician in another facility to actually see a wound, and she sees to its day-to-day maintenance.

"In less than two years in this new role, Patti has facilitated more than 350 clinical events, not including the many educational and administrative events conducted over the OTN network," said Linda.

"Northumberland patients now use OTN for specialist consults, follow-up visits and in-patient referrals. Patti estimates that local patients saved themselves and their families approximately 23,000 KM of travel in the past year alone, as a result of having access to this local service. Congratulations, Patti Ley, on being our 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award winner. Well deserved!"

The 2014 Outstanding Innovation Award was presented to **Kathy Chomitz**.

A palliative care nurse at NHH, Kathy has been a member of the team who nominated her for the award since 2005.

As her senior nurse initiative, Kathy created a resource booklet—a Palliative Care Tool—for each unit in the hospital.

The book helps the health care teams assess patients' palliative needs in a step-by-step fashion using the latest best practice.

"With passion and determination, Kathy went above and beyond to create a resource that was understandable, easy to use and very appropriate for our older-than-average patient population," said Linda. "Through her work, specialized palliative care skills are now spreading beyond the doors of our dedicated six-bed Palliative Care unit to the many other patients in other areas of our hospital who can benefit from this care."

For a complete listing of all the recipients recognized with awards at the 2014 event, please see below. For further information, please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca

10 Years

Karen Adams
Tania Bird
Debra Bursey
Janna Cudmore
Cheryl DiMarco
Jeanie Haig
Treena Hill
Cynthia Kelsey
Aileen MacDonald
Jessica Martell
Christine Nichols
Christa Rebot
Tina Roach
Beverly Ryan-James
Stacey Skoloudik
Sheila Kirkpatrick
Judy Vansickle
Leslie Sokoljuk
Deborah Zoras

Beverley Atkinson
Ruth Bon
Nina Chernipeski
Nicole Davis
Michele Elder
Andrea Hamlin
Kathy Hooper
Elizabeth Kuschnik
Colleen MacDonald
Rhonda McMurray
Suzanne O'Hanlon
Andrew Rennicks
Barbara Ann Rogers
Elizabeth Schwartzkopf
Amy Smith
Bill Stillman
Karen Walsh
Jeanine Ward

Erin Bergeron
Mary Brownson
Sarah Cressey
Holley Denny
Arlene Fagan
Krista Hay
Sandra Jex
Lynn Lumley
Erica Mackey
Debbie Mills
Crystal Petherick
Michelle Rightmyer
Valerie Russell
Tracey Sheldrick
Tracy Kidd
Laura Stitt
Denene Smith
Sarah West

15 Years

Kim Bisset
David Comeau
Susan Delong
Mike Donoghue
Jeri Henderson
Deanna Jones

20 Years

Kim Brooks
Doris Chin Bruton
Rebecca Rutherford

25 Years

Myonne Allan
Lori Baldini
Diane Baskey
Brenda Doidge
Elizabeth Garinther
Rhonda Lyttle
Cynthia McElrea
Pamela Perrow
Sandra Prentice
Cindy Roffey
Chris Toope
Melanie Tweedie

30 Years

Pam Oakman

35 Years

Brenda Ough
Mary Anne Shaw

40 Years

Nancy Linton
Louise Rusk

Education Awards

- Karen Bruton, Professional Practice Leader – Masters of Clinical Science
- Heather Campbell, Patient Care Manager, Emergency Services and Intensive Care – Bachelor of Science, Nursing
- Tabitha Carroll, Program Director, Emergency, Critical Care and Acute Inpatient Services – Masters, Nursing
- Julie Morgan, Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) medical float – RPN diploma

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, 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 or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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