

MEDIA RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2014

Norfolk General Hospital is now 100% totally smoke free!

“It’s an important part of helping people live healthier lives” NGH Vice President of Finance Tom Tomson stated yesterday during a pre-launch event. Tomson accepted a Leadership Award from Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit Program Manager Michelle Pasichnyk recognizing NGH’s adoption of a 100% smoke free hospital property policy. To mark the day, NGH staff enjoyed cake and popcorn and learned about Nicotine Replacement Therapy programs offered to patients and staff. The Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit was on site with a display of materials about the health benefits of being smoke free and some of the programs offered to become a non-smoker.

As a healthcare facility, NGH strives to assist in the prevention of medical disease such as lung cancer and chronic pulmonary, asthma and other respiratory conditions that can be caused by smoking and the effects of second-hand smoke.



Effective today, September 30, the new policy goes beyond the Smoke-free Ontario Act which bans smoking within 9 metres of a doorway. Smoking prohibitions are extended to all areas of the hospital including the exterior grounds, parking areas and vehicles. The West Street designated smoking area no longer exists.

This policy applies to staff, volunteers, students, visitors and patient that are within the boundaries of NGH. The hospital is reminding smokers to respect its neighbours and to use the butt stop that has been placed near Elgin and Robinson Streets.

NGH recognizes the challenges for those wishing to quit smoking. A Smoking Cessation team will continue to work with the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit to assist with stop smoking programs for patients who smoke and must remain at NGH for an extended period of time and hospital staff as they also will be encouraged to attempt to butt out for good. Nicotine Replacement Therapy will be provided in the form of patches and gum. Information and assistance is readily available plus, NGH has recruited staff Smoke-Free Champions to share their success stories as a way to inspire and empower those wishing to make a quit attempt. More on the policy can be found at www.ngh.on.ca



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“Our mission is to relieve illness and suffering, and help people live healthier lives.”

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