

Hospital Happenings

Norfolk
GENERAL HOSPITAL

Norfolk General Hospital *Celebrating 84 Years In Our Community*

2009 Issue 8 – November

NGH & McMaster University - Partners in the Education of Healthcare Professionals



Dr. Peter Rich, Chief of Medicine at NGH and Dr. Peter Dent, Associate Vice President of Clinical Services at McMaster University share a friendly handshake following the official affiliation agreement between NGH & McMaster University. *More pictures @ www.ngh.on.ca*

NGH is increasing its role as a teaching site for students at McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences. On Thursday, November 5, the hospital and university formalized their relationship with an Affiliation Agreement for the teaching of medical students and family medicine residents.

"We are very proud to be affiliated with McMaster University's Faculty of Health, which has a world-class reputation for innovation in teaching," said Bill Lewis, NGH, President & CEO. "It's a positive thing for Simcoe and all of Norfolk County."

Staff Line Up for H1N1 Vaccinations

High Risk H1N1 Vaccinations Clinics were provided to all staff, volunteers and clergy, October 30, through November 4, in the North South Conference Room. Over 300 vaccinations were given during the first day. A few small challenges were reported including long line ups, but overall the clinics went very well. In total 654 people were vaccinated over the course of 4 days.



It won't hurt a bit Bob! RN Janice Snively gets Maintenance employee Bob Veres to roll up his sleeve for the H1N1 shot. Bob chose to be vaccinated upon high recommendation from his family physician.

[Get the latest information on H1N1 from the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit, click here](#)

"Winter-Wonderland" Christmas Party

Saturday, December 5, 2009, Delhi German Home.

Nov. 27 is your last day to purchase tickets!

Suggestions - Feedback - Submissions

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Staff Christmas
Open House
December 23
2- 4pm Cafeteria

Our mission is to assist those we serve to achieve the best possible health outcomes



Jessie Kellner & Jane Miller

Volunteers Named as Provincial Life Members

Congratulations to Port Dover Volunteer Branch Member, Jessie Kellner and Simcoe Branch Volunteer Jane Miller for receiving the highest award of excellence bestowed on volunteers in the Healthcare sector. The HAAO (Hospitals Auxiliaries and Associations of Ontario) Provincial Life Membership Awards were presented to both ladies at a gala banquet in Toronto on November 18, with family members, fellow volunteers, Bill Lewis and Sherri Schira-Ladosz in attendance.

Jane has volunteered since 1992 and has taken on an unbelievable amount of responsibility within the volunteer program; she possesses exceptional leadership skills, which have benefited the organization in so many important ways.

Jessie has been an active volunteer since 1974. She is a dedicated volunteer who often takes on leadership roles within her branch. Over her 30 years plus as a volunteer, Jessie has participated in several fundraising projects; she continues to share her time as a loyal volunteer in the gift shop. One of her favourite things to do is knit baby hats, which so many newborns leave wearing from our hospital.

Jane is currently the Information Desk convener, Fundraising Chair and will return next year, as the Volunteer Association President for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

NHHH Bids Farewell to Activation Coordinator, JoAnn Stephan

Friends, family and colleagues of JoAnn Stephan gathered at the Best Western Little River Inn, Simcoe on November 7, to share memories and best wishes. After 21 years with the Norfolk Hospital Nursing Home, JoAnn has accepted a new Managerial role in Collingwood. Thanks for all of your hard work at the Nursing Home and Good Luck in the future JoAnn!



International Acknowledgement

This year's International Diabetes Conference was held October 18-22 in Montreal, Quebec. The conference is an opportunity for diabetes educators, specialist and physicians from around the world to meet and discuss key issues in diabetes care and exchange information on how available resources can best be used to tackle the global diabetes problem.

During a full breakfast meeting with over 500 delegates, Jessica Brown, H-N Diabetes Program Dietitian, was awarded with the Novo-norodisk Conference Scholarship Award in recognition of her dedication and commitment to diabetes care. "It was overwhelming to say the least," said Jessica.

A Leader in Hospital Design

On October 25-31, National Healthcare Facilities & Engineering Week featured NGH in their promotional material. In 2008, the Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society honoured NGH with the Award of Excellence for the Emergency Room Redevelopment Project.

[Read more...](#)

"Circle of Giving" is the NEW NGH Foundation Donor Appreciation E-Newsletter

If you would like to subscribe please, [Click Here](#)

There's Something Growing On the First Floor



The NGH Infection Control Department is encouraging everyone committed to hand hygiene and patient care to help the Hand Hygiene Tree flourish. To do this, just stop by the Infection Control Office, fill out a hand and place it on to the tree. Let's all do our part

for hand hygiene awareness!

Protecting Staff During a Potential Pandemic

At Norfolk General Hospital, Pandemic Preparedness is everyone's responsibility, even if it means looking a little silly placing a hood over your head for a mask fitting. N95 masks are proven to provide the best protection to employees in a pandemic situation. A short test is performed to make sure staff have the most appropriate mask.



Will Baker sprays Bitrex a potent yet harmless bittering agent into the masks of Andrea Helm, Health Records and Sherry Polis, CMHA.

“There needs to be a well fitted tight seal around the mask to ensure no harmful viruses or bacteria can enter the employee's respiratory system,” said Will Baker, Director of Occupational Health at NGH. “Since people have different facial sizes and features, we need to adapt the mask to fit those differences.”

Once tested for the appropriate mask, employees receive a certificate valid for two years, which provides the respirator model and size. In a pandemic situation, staff would be sent this mask for their designated work area.

If you require to renew your certificate, need to be fitted for an N95 mask or having any questions, please contact Will Baker, Ext.1262

Volunteer Clinics are scheduled Nov. 27-29 Classroom A

Empowering Patients and Families

Every life is a precious life, whenever the possibility of death or extreme change becomes a reality, it can be an overwhelming experience. Joe Bitz is NGH's interim Social Worker assigned to the duties of Jessica Sarafinchin in her absence. Joe helps to provide emotional support to patients and families in their most fragile state. Working within the emergency and throughout the hospital, Joe helps to empower people to make difficult decisions, he explains Long Term Care placements, allocates resources and can arrange meetings amongst our



Joe Bitz, NGH Social Worker

healthcare team, but most of all Joe is there to provide patients and their families with an open mind and open ears.

“I'm really enjoying working with staff and patients at NGH, I appreciate the fact that I can see people through their entire experience at our hospital”, said Joe.

Since mid October, Joe has assumed this important role in our hospital. He has also had the chance to take part in a Memorial Service in which families are invited back to the hospital to celebrate the life of a loved one. “I think this is a chance to come back to our hospital in a positive way, for many, this is the first time families have returned since the passing of a loved one. It shows the hospital acknowledges the life of our patients and are here to offer honour and respect.” This is also an opportunity for Joe to speak about grief, offer his support and allow family members to re-narrate their experience.

Joe extends his support to staff and encourages an open door policy in his 4th floor office. He can be reached at Ext. 4474

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Ontario Breast Screening Program at NGH

November 10, 2009, OBSP welcomed its 500th new client of year. This is a tremendous increase over the past several years when the program averaged approximately 150 new clients annually. Having digital mammography and doubling our appointments has given the program an opportunity to enhance the service we provide to the women in our community.

Early detection saves lives!



Betty Carpenter

If you would like to have a chance to win the 50/50 draw and benefit from the events that the Employee P.R. Committee sponsors, call Liz in Payroll at ext. 4200.

A Nurse on the Run, an Olympic Run!
Jane Ledressay will Carry the Olympic Torch on December 22nd.



The Olympic Spirit is alive and well at NGH and RN Jane Ledressay couldn't be more excited. The 33-year veteran nurse at NGH was randomly selected to be a torch bearer as the Olympic Flame travels through our area December 22. "I'm very excited, I've never won anything, not even



Jane Ledressay RN, (Right) with Lindsey Propper, RN (Left) show off the Official Olympic Mittens Jane will be wearing December 22 during her Olympic Torch run.

the staff 50/50," said Jane. To top it off, it's become a family affair, as her husband George will also take part in the Simcoe run and her daughter Nicole (also an RN) who lives in Thunder Bay, will also share the rare privilege

later in January. "We only get to run 300 metres with the flame, but can do it at our own pace, as this is a once in a lifetime moment." Jane will run the 3ft, 3lbs torch (which she plans to purchase, an opportunity each bearer is given at a cost of \$300) in her Olympic outfit, complete with the popular red mittens. She will start from the Blue Elephant on Norfolk Street to the corner of Robinson and Norfolk at approximately 9:09.07am. Jane is looking forward to the Olympic Games in Vancouver in 2010 with particular interest in the figure skating competition, as she has been an active volunteer for the Tri County Figure Skating Club for the past 10 years. On December 22, come out and cheer Jane on as she makes our hospital proud!

Follow the Olympic torch <http://www.carrythetorch.com/>

Capturing a Volunteer Moment on Film



Volunteer, Brian Miller Wins Photo submission at HAAO

NGH-NHH Volunteer Association Member, Brian Miller has a real passion for photography and he's good at it! This year, Brian submitted his work to the Hospital Auxiliaries Association of Ontario Photo Contest and won with his Student Volunteer Category Submission of Jr. Volunteer, Kelly Kokus watering plants in the hospital. Brian was presented with his award at the HAAO Conference held in Toronto on November 16-17.

Hands Up! Physician Hand Hygiene Education at NGH

Infection Control Nurse, Kimberley Wray recently travelled throughout the hospital to catch up with physicians and continue to promote the importance of proper hand hygiene.



Growth plate samples were taken from each Doctor to show how potential bacteria can develop on their hands. In addition to growth plate collections, an educational display was set-up in the Doctor's Lounge. Kim Ext. 1267

Kimberley Wray, Infection Control & Dr. Gary Weber



1st. Sue Koopman 2nd Kim Stanley & Carol Barker 3rd Leigh Anne Cowan

This year's Pumpkin Carving Contest Challenge was a great success! 13 pumpkins were creatively carved and decorated! Thanks to the 4B Residents who had the difficult task of selecting the top 3 creations. EPRC Member, Barb Stoepker presented winners with their prizes.

Pumpkins were displayed in the cafeteria during Halloween for everyone to see. Thanks to all who participated!

Employee Public Relations Committee



Submit Your Hospital Happening Stories By December 18 for Next Publication