

Hospital AGM a Night of Recognitions and Introductions

Working with LHIN and Ministry of Health to move new building project forward

June 23, 2010 / Grimsby, Ontario – The community said farewell to a long-serving CEO and hello to a new one – as well as a new Board Chair and Project Director at the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital’s annual general meeting this evening. The leadership announcements served as backdrop to the news that WLMH is one of the most efficient in the Province, is balancing its operating budget, and is focused on its new building project.

“Our hospital is meeting today’s challenges and we’re planning for tomorrow,” said Vaughn Warrington, the in-coming Chair of the Hospital Board. “West Lincoln is a model small-community hospital, the third-most efficient in Ontario with a great reputation for our obstetrics, palliative care and family medicine practices. Our success is a result of a lot of hard work and a commitment to delivering quality hospital programs and services, and partnering along side community health-care providers.

Mr. Warrington added, “Our family doctors and physicians, our hospital staff, are all providing the highest quality care for the community and we can be proud of their efforts.”

Mr. Warrington’s presentation outlined the latest news on the new building project. “The Board and senior management are working closely with the LHIN and Ministry of Health officials on the approval of the hospital’s building project. This process has been evolving with the LHIN’s clinical services plan, however the hospital has just submitted building documents to the LHIN and we will be working towards Ministry deadlines for August.”

“There is a real need for a new hospital building. Our aging facility costs the health system money and it limits the services we can provide to the community. Though the approval process is arduous, at times unexplainable, it is in keeping with new capital building projects and we’re confident our project is moving forward,” Mr. Warrington said.

The evening was also a time to recognize the 12 years of service by David Bird as the hospital’s CEO and the 6 years of Board service by past Board Chair Robert Whitenect. At the same time, the hospital welcomed Vickie Baird as its new CEO and Robert Hofmann as its Project Director, with responsibilities for managing the new hospital project.

Other highlights of the WLMH’s AGM presentation included:

- WLMH is recognized as one of the top three most-efficient hospitals in Ontario.
- The hospital’s obstetrics program experienced a 60% increase in births in the last 5 years – 49% of families coming from outside the WLMH service area. The LHIN provided WLMH an additional \$350,000 to offset the budgetary pressures of the hospital’s popular obstetrics program.

- West Niagara Palliative Care program, operated from WLMH, is recognized as one of the four top end-of-life models of care in Canada.
- The hospital is exploring a partnership with Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington that would include integrated clinical services in obstetrics and diagnostic imaging programs. This will provide increased services to expectant mothers and ready-access for patients requiring CT scanning and other radiology services.
- The Foundation reported generous donations through its many events and its continued fundraising efforts for Project X-Ray. It raises 100% of all costs for hospital equipment as the Province does not provide money for materials - from hospital beds and mattresses to radiology equipment.
- The WLMH Auxiliary reported 225 volunteers provided more than 30,000 hours of service as well as \$162,000 funds raised this past year – with the majority of the funds going towards its Mammography Unit campaign.
- In 2009-10, WLMH expenses exceeded its budget by \$659,123; approximately \$400,000 non-cash expense relates to depreciation on medical equipment and a \$250,000 cash operating deficit that WLMH has covered with its cash reserves.

The public can access the WLMH AGM presentation in the news section of the hospital's website. Also, for more information regarding CEO Vickie Baird and Project Director Robert Hofmann, these announcements can be found on the website.

www.wlmh.on.ca

**For more information, visit www.wlmh.on.ca or call:
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