

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Radiation Consultation Clinic Now Open at Ross Memorial Hospital Less Travel Means Less Stress for Patients**

**January 13, 2014** — After the shock of a cancer diagnosis, patients face numerous visits to specialists and services in other regions. Not all of these visits involve treatment; many are consultations with oncologists and follow-up appointments.

Beginning today, some local cancer patients will have the option to meet with a radiation oncologist for consultation and follow-up right here at Ross Memorial Hospital (RMH) in Lindsay. The new radiation consultation clinic will be offered every second and fourth Monday in the Continuing Care wing.

This new service is made possible through Ross Memorial Hospital's partnership with the Central East Regional Cancer Program through the Durham Region Cancer Centre at Lakeridge Health. A radiation oncologist from the Durham Region Cancer Centre will come to RMH to see patients on-site, helping them to prepare for radiation treatment, and monitoring their health during and after treatments.

As a result of this new service, many patients will only need to travel to the Durham Region Cancer Centre in Oshawa for their radiation treatments. Potential patients include those with breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and prostate cancer. Lung cancer patients will continue to be seen in Oshawa or other cities.

Right now, approximately 160 people in the City of Kawartha Lakes are preparing for or are undergoing radiation treatments.

"We now offer radiation consultation and follow-up appointments for many City of Kawartha Lakes residents right here in their own community. This is an important step in creating a regional health system where people get the care they need close to home," said Tom McHugh, Regional Vice President of the Central East Regional Cancer Program.

"We're pleased to be able to offer this important service in our patients' home community," said Brian Payne, President and CEO of the Ross Memorial Hospital. "With the assistance of the Radiation Consultation Clinic, patients will be able to concentrate on their health – not their commute."

**About Ross Memorial Hospital** – Ross Memorial Hospital is a 175 bed community hospital serving more than 80,000 local residents and 35,000 seasonal visitors. The RMH team provides compassionate, high quality care to more than 45,000 emergency patients and 6000 inpatients each year. RMH offers a wide variety of acute and continuing care services, including a 24/7/365 emergency department, obstetrics, orthopedics and ophthalmology, outpatient dialysis, a schedule 1 mental health program, restorative seniors care, rehabilitation and palliative care, a progressive health promotion program for chronic disease management, and a full range of diagnostic imaging, including MRI. In 2011, the hospital received full accreditation with exemplary standing by Accreditation Canada, having met 99% of the industry's international standards of excellence.

**About the Central East Regional Cancer Program** – The Central East Regional Cancer Program (CERCP) is one of 14 regional cancer programs in Ontario. The CERCP provides access to cancer care for 1.6 million people in the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). Our network of hospital partners includes the R.S. McLaughlin Durham Region Cancer Centre at Lakeridge Health, the Scarborough Hospital, Rouge Valley Health System, Northumberland Hills Hospital, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Ross Memorial Hospital, Campbellford Memorial Hospital and Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

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