

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Creating a Rural Model of Care for Seniors North East LHIN Salutes Barbara Harten as Healthy Change Champion**

**October 3, 2013--** Barbara Harten's work as an Administrator at Algoma Manor Nursing Home in Thessalon has been defined by a commitment to collaborate with partners and stakeholders to create new models of rural care.

It's this desire to put Northerners first that has also made her the North East Local Health Integration Network's latest **Healthy Change Champion**.

The Healthy Change Champion award recognizes outstanding Northerners and organizations who are working to transform health care into a more coordinated and people-focused system across the vast region of Northeastern Ontario.

"What really stands out is Barbara's commitment to putting people first and seeking out partnerships with other organizations and groups," said Louise Paquette, CEO of the North East LHIN.

Barbara has worked, and continues to work, with many partners to create a more integrated rural model of care -- one that is focused on seniors and others who need help with the tasks of daily living.

A registered nurse and former director of nursing at Algoma Manor Nursing Home, Barbara took the reins as its administrator about four years ago. Since then it has been redeveloped, going from a Class D to a Class A long-term care home which houses 96 seniors in a mix of private, semi-private and two-bedroom units. Fundraising to build the new manor brought together 56 community groups and 21 municipalities.

The new Algoma Manor has a connecting link to Thessalon Hospital, which means residents can easily access its services without an ambulance, and health care professionals can easily move between the two facilities. The Manor now provides dietary services at the Thessalon Daycare and Thessalon Hospital, as well as taking care of the hospital's laundry and light maintenance services.



Barbara Harten (middle front) is joined by her team at the Algoma Manor made up of Staff and Board. Harten says that it takes a team effort to improve care for seniors. Back row from left is Steve Alberta, Darlene Inch, Judy Bizier, Tammy Campbell, and Colleen Paat. Middle row is Board Chair Donna Latulippe, Frances Levesque, and Pam Ficocielli.

The Manor is also in discussion with Blind River District Health Services and Physically Handicapped Adults Rehabilitation Association (PHARA) regarding the acute care hospital site as the first step to the rural health model for this area.

“In Thessalon, the board members, the management team, and the staff are all on board with the vision of the LHIN,” said Barbara. “Our energies are focused on the development of other health care partners to form an integration rural model of care especially to assist with the seniors’ access to care.”

“We believe that not only efficient shared operational processes will be developed, but an effective system that navigates the community to access services in acute care/community and long term care.”

### **Background Information about the Award:**

- **Who is Eligible?** North East LHIN health service providers (HSPs), employees and volunteers of providers, as well as, health care leaders, community leaders, and other Northerners who are contributing to building a stronger health care system in the North East.
- **What kind of work does the NE LHIN Healthy Change Champion recognize?** Those who are transforming the health care system so that it becomes more patient/client-focused, integrated, and easier to access. These are people or organizations who are reaching out to others in the course of their work to improve the system. Their work may be small or large in scope, but it's significant in that it is making a difference in people's lives.
- **Who can nominate?** Any Northerner can suggest a Healthy Change Champion. We just ask that you tell us in one or two paragraphs why you believe the person or organization deserves this recognition. Send your nomination to [engagingwithyou@lhins.on.ca](mailto:engagingwithyou@lhins.on.ca) or 555 Oak Street East, Third Floor, North Bay, ON, P1B 8E3.
- **How are they picked?** Nominees are reviewed by our senior team. Consideration is also given to individuals and organizations who are advancing the care for special population groups within the North East LHIN including seniors, Aboriginal/First Nations/Métis, and Francophones.

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For more information: Contact Lara Bradley, communication officer with the North East LHIN at 705-674-1492, 705-207-3254, or [lara.bradley@lhins.on.ca](mailto:lara.bradley@lhins.on.ca)