

**Report from Nadine Doucette
Chair, Board of Directors
November 4, 2015**



Board of Directors

healthy
together

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and TBRHSC's participation began with the 23rd annual Tbaytel Luncheon of Hope. The event is an annual highlight of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation and this year was no exception. It featured two inspirational speakers, Florence Strang and Susan Gonzalez, who emphasized the importance of attitude in dealing with the challenges, fear and uncertainty that accompany a diagnosis of breast cancer. The speakers were an integral part of this year's luncheon, but, as usual, the community and the attitude they bring to the event makes it. From all accounts, this year was no exception. Whether it's dancing in the aisles during the Bling Blitz to the hearty laughs sometimes mixed with tears during the presentations, the community again rose to make this not only an important fundraiser for the Northern Cancer Fund but also a unique and memorable event for our guests. This is a wonderful example of the essential work the Foundation does for our hospital.

Our Prevention and Screening Services team used Breast Cancer Awareness month to encourage women between the ages of 50 and 74 to get regular mammograms and highlighted the Screening Coach that brings this service to rural communities in Northwestern Ontario.

October features a further highlight on the events calendar, the annual Balmoral Park Acura Save a Heart Ball. This year's event was particularly exciting given the news last June that we will be moving ahead with a full cardiovascular surgical program at TBRHSC.

Acute Mental Health is one of the five strategic directions of our five-year plan and on October 6th staff, patients and partners at TBRHSC recognized Mental Illness Awareness Week by walking together to help raise awareness and reduce stigma surrounding mental health and addictions.

The CEO Search Committee and search firm Promeus Inc. continue their work to find a President and CEO. We have adjusted the timeline slightly for that work and initial interviews are scheduled in November.

It will come as no surprise to anyone that we continue to face challenges with overcapacity and gridlock. We are in regular contact with our system partners to find ways to accommodate the growing numbers of ALC patients as we begin the transfer to the new Hogarth Riverview Manor long term care home. We know full well that this puts extra strain on our staff in an environment that is already challenging. I want to reiterate again how appreciative we are of the excellent staff we have here at TBRHSC and the high quality of work and continued commitment to Patient and Family Centred Care provided under these often trying circumstances. That appreciation is equally deserving for our hundreds of volunteers who provide irreplaceable help in performing our duties.

Thank you all.

We are Healthy Together.

Nadine Doucette, Chair
Board of Directors