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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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**Deep River and Area Welcomes Three New Doctors**

Deep River, ON, May 7, 2010- The Deep River and District Hospital and the municipal leaders of Deep River, Laurentian Hills and Head Clara Maria are pleased to announce the successful recruitment of three new doctors who arrived in the area during the past eight months. The three new physicians are Dr. Erin Harrigan, Dr. Terence Woods, and Dr. Hanene Ben Amor. The recruitment of all three is the product of almost 15 months of focused recruitment efforts involving Hospital leadership, municipal support and active involvement of community resources. The communities were actively profiled through attendance at nine medical career days and recruitment events throughout Ontario and Quebec. The municipal officials and community ambassadors played an active role in staging very creative and impressive community visit experiences for interested candidates.

“The best way to make a positive difference on the health of any community is to increase the availability of primary care physicians and related health professionals to address both health and illness issues of the population,” said Larry Schruder, CEO of Deep River and District Hospital and lead recruiter for the community. “For this reason, we set a clear strategy, and put all the operational plans and activities into place to increase our base of primary care services, both in the family practice area, and in support of our increasingly busy 24/7 emergency department.”

Dr. Harrigan and her spouse, who is a physician with the military, moved to Pembroke from Calgary, Alberta and has been seeing patients with the North Renfrew Family Health Team since the fall of 2009. Dr. Terence Woods, who moved here from Toronto a couple of months ago with his spouse, practices as an emergency medicine physician at the Hospital. Dr. Ben Amor moved here from North Eastern Quebec with her husband and three children to practice in both the Family Health team and the Hospital emergency department. All three are expressing enjoyment and satisfaction in applying their skills in a rural community setting containing an active Hospital facility.

The addition of three new physicians to the existing community of five family physicians and two nurse practitioners further enhances access to medical services in the Deep River and District catchment area.

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“This increase in the availability of local family and emergency department physicians assists in providing the necessary relief desperately needed by the existing local doctors who have practiced here for many years and for the Hospital’s ability to continue providing 24/7 emergency care,” said Chief of Staff Dr. Terry McVey. “We look forward to increasing the physician community within Deep River and area and welcome these new doctors to active medical practice in our communities”.

“Successful physician recruitment only results from a dedicated team effort involving many players,” said CEO Larry Schruder. “These results have been achieved through the combined efforts of the Hospital, Municipal and community resources, existing local family physicians and other local employers”.

Individuals currently seeking access to primary health care who live or work in the communities of Deep River, Head Clara Maria or Laurentian Hills are encouraged to register their names with the provincial Ministry of Health registry for unattached patients by calling Health Care Connect at 1-800-445-1822. Current and new patients of the Family Health Team will continue to receive the services of all the allied health professionals available through this model of care including access to the Nurse Practitioners.