

Thursday May 10, 2007

*For more information
contact:*

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Michael Mazza
Chief Executive Officer
519 245-5295 ext. 5592

Celebrating National Nursing Week

To celebrate National Nursing Week, Middlesex Hospital Alliance expressed appreciation for their nurses with a special dinner Wednesday evening, held at the Westhaven Golf & Country Club.

“Nurses are essential to our ability to provide excellent healthcare,” Mike Mazza, CEO of Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) said, “We are proud of the excellent nursing care that we have at MHA and of our individual nurses who provide that safe, efficient and caring nursing.”

Nursing Week is celebrated around the world in conjunction with Florence Nightingale’s birthday, May 12. Florence Nightingale is considered the pioneer of modern nursing. The celebratory week offers an opportunity to celebrate the unique contributions of both the nursing profession and individual nurses.

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance was hosted by MHA Chief Operating Officer Nancy Maltby-Webster, CEO Mike Mazza and Board Chair Yvonne Lambert for well over 100 nurses. The emcee for the evening was the popular morning radio host from EZRock 97.5, Rich Greven and special guest was Maria Van Bommel, M.P.P. Lambton-Kent-Middlesex.

Van Bommel praised the nurses at MHA for their contribution to MHA successes and she spoke about a new Nursing Graduate Guarantee that MHA will be using. This \$89 million investment aims to ensure that every new nursing graduate who wishes to work full-time in Ontario will have that opportunity. “This initiative will create temporary bridging positions to help new nursing graduates find full-time employment immediately upon graduation,” said Van Bommel. These positions are above staffing complement and fully funded by the government for six months. The expectation, after

the first six months, is that employers will have a plan for these temporary bridging positions to lead into permanent full-time jobs.

Yvonne Lambert, Middlesex Hospital Alliance Board chair offered her thanks - and praise - to the nurses of MHA. Lambert said, "Nurses are a large part of the success that MHA has in providing, for example, excellent wait times. I know how important it is for our whole healthcare system to have the superb nursing staff that we are fortunate to have at Strathroy and at Four Counties. Thank you, nurses."