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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Local HART Hub Application Receives Provincial Approval**

*Working Collaboratively to Enhance Care for Woodstock and Oxford County*

Woodstock, ON— The Oxford Ontario Health Team (OHT), Woodstock Hospital, and our community partners are thrilled to announce that the Ministry of Health has officially approved our joint Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub application. This milestone represents a significant step forward in enhancing integrated care and support for individuals facing homelessness, mental health, and addictions in Woodstock and Oxford County.

The HART Hub will provide evidence-based, multifaceted programs and services that address locally identified needs and will provide the appropriate services along the HART Hub client's journey. The journey has four main components: Visit to the Hub, Safety, Support, and Stability & Recovery. Please [click here](#) for the Ministry's client journey pathway.

As part of the Oxford HART Hub model, Woodstock Hospital has purchased a building intended to focus on the support, stability, and recovery components of the client's journey. After a thorough review of potential sites, 16 Graham Street, the former PUC building in Woodstock, was selected for its proximity to the downtown core, which makes services accessible. This location is also close to many community service providers. These partnerships will be crucial in delivering an integrated care approach to help clients achieve long-term stability.

With today's announcement, we are one step closer to having this vital resource to serve residents in Woodstock and Oxford County.

"Woodstock Hospital is proud to collaborate with our Oxford OHT partners to bring the vision of the HART Hub to life," said Perry Lang, President & CEO of Woodstock Hospital. "We look forward to working with our community partners to offer comprehensive wraparound care to support our most complex populations through their treatment and recovery journey."

"The Board of Trust is thrilled to support this important initiative, with Woodstock Hospital purchasing a building to bring mental health, addictions, and human service providers under one roof in downtown Woodstock," shared Patrice Hilderley, Chair of the Board of Trust. "Members of the Board live and work in our community and are deeply aware of the current challenges and needs. We are proud to support the hospital's leadership in this initiative."

"The Oxford OHT's mission is to work together to build a stronger, healthier community for all," said Teresa Martins, Executive Director of the Oxford OHT. "This HART Hub funding announcement is a significant milestone in achieving that mission. By working together to offer access to the right care, by the right team, and in the right setting, we can reduce system fragmentation and help individuals right when they need it."

We look forward to keeping the community engaged and informed throughout this process to ensure the success of our local HART Hub. Together with our community partners, we are committed to building a brighter future for everyone in Woodstock and Oxford County.

**About Woodstock Hospital**

The new Woodstock Hospital opened in November 2011 as a 178-bed, full-service community hospital, providing primary care to a population of 55,000 and specialized care to nearly 110,000 residents within the County of Oxford. The new facility offers a wide range of health programs, including Maternal Child Women's Health, specialized Surgical Services, Inpatient and Outpatient Mental Health Services, Dialysis and Rehabilitation Programs, a Systemic Therapy Program, and Diagnostic Imaging, including MRI. Our hospital works closely with our community partners to provide our patients with high-quality healthcare services close to home.

**About the Oxford Ontario Health Team**

The Oxford Ontario Health Team (OHT) was officially formed in 2020 as a new way to organize and deliver health and social services. Our aim is to provide community members with better connected and more convenient care, closer to home. We are a collaborative of over 20 local healthcare providers and organizations including primary care, hospitals, home and community care, mental health and addictions services, long term care, and connections to social services and public health. Our shared purpose is to "work together to build a stronger, healthier community for all." The Oxford OHT is funded by the Government of Ontario.

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For more information contact:

**Chelsea Fagan**

Communications & Public Relations Officer

Woodstock Hospital

519-421-4233 ext. 2166

[cfagan@woodstockhospital.ca](mailto:cfagan@woodstockhospital.ca)