MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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STEGH Board of Governors Elects Melanie Taylor as Chair

(St. Thomas, ON) - On June 18th the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) Board of Governors elected Elgin County resident Melanie Taylor as their new Chair. Taylor has been a member of the STEGH Board since 2009. She takes over the role from Paul Bode, who has just completed a two-year term as Chair. Taylor’s previous roles on the Board include Vice-Chair, and Chair of Governance Committee, Infrastructure Committee, and Community Linkage Committee.

The role of the Board of Governors is to provide oversight and ensure that the hospital is pursuing its’ vision to deliver an excellent patient care experience, in a safe and compassionate environment, in collaboration with our health care partners. Members elected to the Board are volunteers who serve without financial compensation.

The role of the Chair is to assure the integrity of the Board’s process, and to represent the Board within the hospital and to outside parties. Typically, an individual fills the role of Chair for a two-year term.

"I am so lucky to be stepping into the role of Chair of the Board of Governors at such an exciting time. We are knee-deep in the planning for our new Emergency Department, Surgical Suites, Sterile Processing Department, and permanent home for the Mental Health Care Program,” says Taylor.

“Our hospital has won four consecutive Platinum Quality Health Care Workplace Awards from the Ontario Hospital Association. Among other advances, STEGH has the lowest emergency wait-times in the province as a result of the implementation of Lean improvement systems and methods. I have been so fortunate to have served on the Board with five past Board Chairs and have learned so much from them that I will apply to this role. I take my responsibility as Chair seriously, and will do my best to help make sure that the needs of the community are being addressed not only now, but for generations to come.”

Bode, who will continue as a Board member in the role of Past Chair, is equally committed to ensuring the needs of future generations are met at STEGH.

“The residents of St. Thomas and Elgin County, are fortunate to have STEGH in our community, led by a management team with vision and drive, and staffed by outstanding people and
supported by tireless volunteers who are truly dedicated to excellent patient care. I look forward to seeing what the future has to hold for our exceptional community hospital," says Bode.

Also joining the Board of Governors is Cathy Crane, who was appointed in March 2014 to fill an unexpected vacancy. Crane is a retired senior healthcare leader.

“We are fortunate to have broad community representation on our Board guiding the future of our hospital,” says Paul Collins, President and CEO, “They bring a varied variety of skillsets including accounting and business management, marketing, finance, human resources, healthcare administration, quality and performance management, and strategic planning,”

For a complete list of all board members please visit http://www.stegh.on.ca/about-us/our-board-governors

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MELANIE TAYLOR BIO - Taylor was raised in Kitchener and has been a resident of Elgin County for the last 10 years. She attended the University of Waterloo where she earned bachelor and master's degrees in Civil Engineering. She currently owns and operates Vesta Shop and Parenting Centre in downtown St. Thomas and has been employed with Steelway Building Systems since 2004, previously managing the environmental, health and safety, and quality programs and currently working part-time as the Continuous Improvement Specialist. Taylor has been a Big Sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elgin County since 2004 and previously sat on the board of Milestones Children's Centre. Melanie is married to Bryan White, a life-long resident of Elgin County and current member of the STEGH Foundation Capital Campaign Committee. Both of Melanie's children were born at STEGH, Escher in 2009 and Ayla in 2012.

ABOUT STEGH - The St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) is a 166-bed, 440,000 square foot facility providing comprehensive 24-hour coverage in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Anesthesia, Emergency and Family Medicine. As a fully accredited hospital, it serves the city of St Thomas and all eight municipalities within Elgin County. More than 800 professionals work at STEGH, including over 200 credentialed Professional Staff . Range of hospital services include, emergency medicine, a surgical program, cardio respiratory services, sleep studies, palliative care, chemotherapy, diagnostic imaging, education programs, pediatrics, and obstetrics.