

The 'DOCS'

THE CLINICS - THE HOSPITALS



**Physicians and health providers
who have served the residents of
Reach Township and Port Perry
1830 to 2018**

The Docs

Researched and Published by J. Peter Hvidsten

Published June 2018

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'The Docs'

THE CLINICS - THE HOSPITALS



J. Peter Hvidsten

By J. Peter Hvidsten

Introduction

More than 80 doctors are profiled in this book, but they are not all of the doctors who have provided medical services to Reach Township and Port Perry since the 1850s. There is very little information on a number of doctors who served the area for a short period of time, so they are not featured in this document.

Not included here are doctors who serviced Scugog Island and smaller hamlets during the early years of medicine in the northern township. Hopefully some of these will be added at a later date. Other profiles not included, are many of the fine doctors that are relatively new to Scugog Township, although their names are listed.

As with any historical document, it takes a great deal of information assembled from many sources. The Docs has been researched through the following: First and possibly most valuable of these has been the historic local newspapers published throughout the 1800s and 1900s. Without the news stories carried in the Ontario Observer (1857-1916), the Port Perry Standard (1866-1907) and The Port Perry Star (1907 to present) much of the information would not have been available. These newspapers provided a wealth of information in the form of feature stories and obituaries from some of our earliest physicians to more recent years.

Also a great help in documenting the lives of many physicians was a series of articles featured in Focus on Scugog magazine throughout 2010-2011. These stories have been reprinted courtesy of the publisher of the magazine.

I am also thankful and indebted for the extensive and thorough research done by Gwenyth Thompson and Kent Farndale for the book "Stitches In Time", a history of the growth of Community Memorial Hospital, published in 1994. Their efforts in documenting the hospital, doctors, nurses etc., provided valuable information and important leads for further research into the doctors of this community.

And in this age of internet and websites, access to information that would have been almost impossible to locate decades ago, is now at our fingertips. Of particular value to compiling the information on early doctors for this book, was the use of Ancestry.com. Without this resource, much of the information on our pioneer health providers would not have been available.

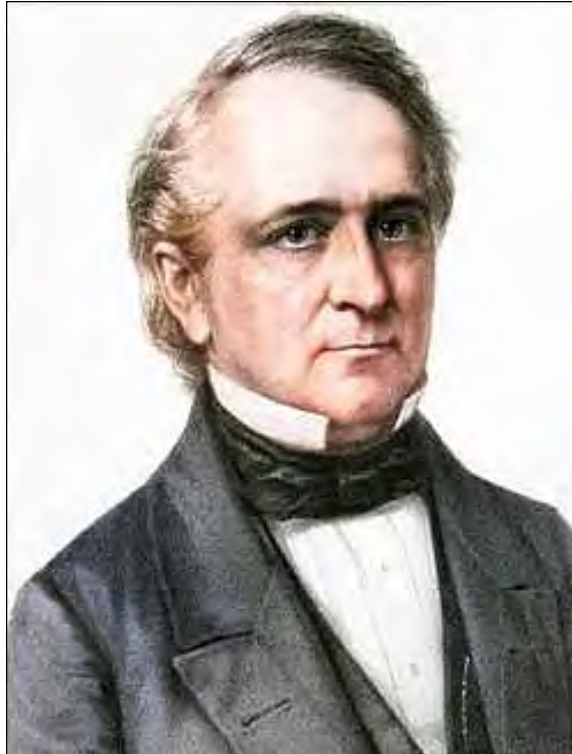
My thanks to all those who assisted and encouraged me to compile this document, which provides an overview of the doctors who brought their medical skills to Port Perry and neighbouring communities over the past 150 years.

Note: A few of the older pictures have been colorized to bring life into the personalities.

Pioneer Docs

PROVIDERS OF EARLY HEALTH CARE

Reach Township's First Doctor



Dr. Jonathan Foot

Dr. Jonathan Foot

1804 - 1885

Dr. Jonathan Foot was fortunately a man of iron frame and great endurance, and he spared neither himself nor his horse when the welfare of his patients required it. He was the first medical practitioner to venture into the wilds north of Whitby and Oshawa to tend to the medical needs in Prince Albert and Reach Township. Rich and poor alike were promptly attended to with sympathetic kindness.

This early pioneer doctor was born on October 31, 1804, in Vermont, USA, the son of Dr. Solomon Foot and his wife Betsey (Crossett). He was the oldest of four children in the family.

Following the example of his father, Jonathan took an interest in medicine and graduated from the Vermont Medical College in Castleton, Vermont in 1829.

A few months later he made his way to Buffalo, and then to Upper Canada to the town of "Little York", which was later renamed, Toronto.

With him he brought letters of introduction to Dr. Burnside and others. He contacted the medical authorities in Upper Canada, who advised him that a doctor was needed east of York, in Whitby Township,

Early Advertisements by local Doctors

N. McCLINTON, M. D.,
Physician and Accouchuer.
Office & Residence—Sonya, Brck.

August 1866

Drs. Brathwaite & Baldwin,
PRINCE ALBERT,
Physicians, Surgeons and Accoucheurs.

L. H. BRATHWAITE, M. D., C. M. May 1868
W. A. BALDWIN, M. D. 48-6m

Dr. Brathwaite,
PRINCE ALBERT,
Physician, Surgeon, and Accoucheur.

January 1870

MEDICAL HALL
Port Perry, Ontario.

THE Subscribers having purchased the Drug Business, recently conducted by Mr. J. R. Bacho, Port Perry, beg to advise the public that they have made large additions to the Stock, which is now complete in every department, and will be disposed of at the lowest remunerative rates. It consists in part of
DRUGS, CHEMICALS, PATENT MEDICINES, DYE STUFFS, PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES, LAMPS, SCHOOL BOOKS, STATIONERY, ALBUMS, FANCY AND TOILET ARTICLES, GARDEN AND FELD SEEDS, &c. &c. &c.

[Prescriptions and Family Receipts carefully and accurately compounded.]
The business will be under the constant supervision of one of the Firm, thereby affording the public every guarantee that it will be conducted in such a manner as cannot fail to secure their entire confidence and liberal patronage.

DRS. JONES & JONES.
May 1868

M. YOUNG, M. D.
PORT PERRY, ONT.,
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, ACCOUCH-
EUR, &c. Graduate of the University
of Victoria College, Toronto.

REFERENCES:—HON. J. ROLPH, M. D.,
M. R. C. S., &c. J. H. SANGSTER, M. A.,
M. D., &c.

Port Perry, April 14th, 1868. 36

W. A. SANGSTER,
DENTAL SURGEON.

Office over C. H. Allison's Drug Store.
Office Hours—9 to 12 a.m., 2 to 6 p.m.
Also open Saturday Evenings.

Gold Fillings, Bridge and Crown Work a
Specialty.

Port Perry, Feb. 11th, 1897.

DRS. JONES & JONES,
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS,
RESPECTFULLY advise the public that
they have formed a partnership for the
practice of their profession.

All calls received at their respective
places of residence will be promptly attend-
ed to.

G. W. JONES, M. D. Coroner, County of Ontario, PRINCE ALBERT. April 20th, 1867.	R. JONES, M. D. Late residence of Dr. Oakley, PORT PERRY. 37
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DR. S. J. MELLOW

(SUCCESSOR TO DR. McDOWELL)

PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, ETC.

Office and Residence, Queen St., Port Perry

Office hours—8 to 10 a.m., 1 to 3 p.m. and
Evenings. Telephone in office and house,
open night and day, over the lines south con-
nected with the residence of Dr. G. L. Rob-
son.

February 1897

J. D. ANDERSON, M.B.M.D., F.T.M.S.,
M.C.P.S., L.R.C.P. Graduate of the
University of Toronto, graduate of the Uni-
versity of Trinity College, Fellow of Trinity
Medical School, Member of the College of
Physicians and Surgeons; Licentiate of the
Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.
Physician, Surgeon, and Accoucheur. Office
over Mr. Corrigan's Store, Port Perry.

April 1863

DR. CLEMENS, successor to J. D. And-
erson M. D., Physician, Surgeon and
Accoucheur. Office over Corrigan's Store.
Residence—Third house east of school
buildings. Office and residence formerly
occupied by Dr. Anderson, Port Perry.
Port Perry, Jan. 4, 1883

DR. E. L. PROCTER,
(SUCCESSOR TO DR. CLEMENS.)

M. D. C. M. of Trinity College University Toron-
to, with Honor Certificate.
Fellow of Trinity Medical College, Toronto,
Mem. of Col. of Physicians and Surgeons, Ont.
Licentiate of University of State of New York.

Office and residence on Dr. Clemens' old site
opposite Town Hall,

PORT PERRY.

June 1901

but he needed to be re-licensed for Upper Canada.

On September 30, 1830 he was examined by Drs. Widmer, Powell and Deihl. He passed his certification to practice medicine in Upper Canada on November 9, 1830. He took up residence in Brooklin, Whitby Township

Jonathan Foot was 30 years old when he married Robina Dow on February 1835. She was the daughter of William Dow, of Whitby. They had six children, two sons and four daughters.

In the early years of his practice, his territory extended from Scarborough to Port Hope and north to Prince Albert, in Reach Township. He traveled on horseback, visiting Prince Albert once a week. Later he stayed for two or three days each week. When Dr. John E. Ware arrived in Prince Albert in 1854, this enabled Dr. Foot to remain full-time in Whitby.

In his path of duty, with "unsullied honor" he trod through his long life, and died leaving an untarnished reputation. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and had an "unflinching trust in God."

Dr. Jonathan Foot, Scugog's first doctor, died in Brooklin on January 2, 1885, in his 81st year, and was accorded a stately funeral. The pall-bearers were Judge Zacheus Burnham, Sheriff Thomas Paxton, Elder Smith, Samuel Beall, James Thompson and George McGillivray.

He was accorded a stately funeral and was buried in Union Cemetery, Oshawa, Ontario. His wife, Robina (Dow) died on September 2, 1884, in Brooklin, Ontario, at the age of 70, and was buried in Oshawa, Ontario.



Sketch of a doctor travelling by horse to reach his patients in Reach Township.

Dr. John Edward Ware

1818 - 1900

John Edward Ware was born at Southhampton, Hampshire, England on April 4, 1818 to parents John E, and Ann Ware. As a young man of only 22 years, he immigrated to the USA in 1840.

John Ware was 28 years old when he married Elizabeth Hunter, 19, on December 25, 1846. They had two children while living in Newmarket, but Elizabeth died two weeks after the birth of their son, on February 23, 1850, in Newmarket, Ontario, where she was buried. He remarried a few years later, to an Orillia, Ont. woman, Sara Eliza.

Little is known of his early life, but by 1851 as a young physician, he came to Canada and was practicing medicine in Whitby, Ontario. Three years later, in 1854, he left Whitby and set up a practice in his home office, in Prince Albert.

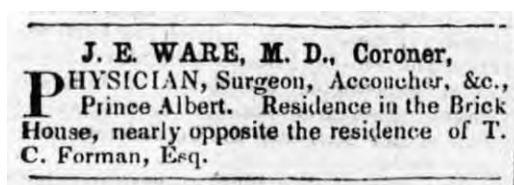
A physician, surgeon and accoucheur, he cared for the people of Prince Albert for many years

before selling his practice to Dr. F.H. Brathwaite, with whom he had a brief partnership in office and residence across from Port Perry's town hall, on Queen Street.

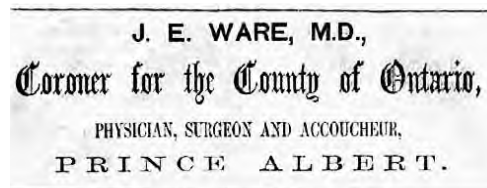
Thirty years after arriving in Prince Albert, on November 6, 1884 Dr. Ware was given a farewell dinner before he moved to Pickering leaving Prince Albert without a resident physician. It is not known how long he was in Pickering but by 1891 Dr. John and Sarah were living in Orillia, Ontario.

About 1889 he moved to Flushing, New York, where he lived with his niece, Mrs. Anne L. Hunter, until his death. John Edward Ware was 82 years old when he passed away on January 2, 1900.

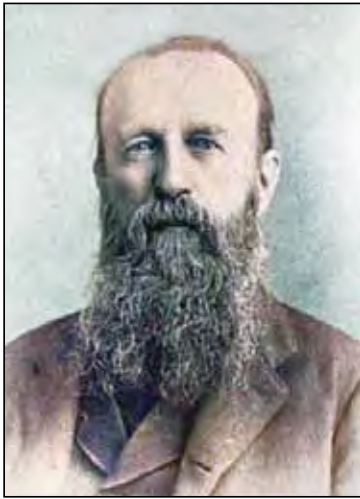
He later returned to New York city, USA, where he lived until his death on December 30, 1900. He was 82 years of age when he passed away.



September 1961



June 1869



Dr. Niven Agnew

Dr. Niven Agnew

1828 - 1905

One of the early physicians of Reach Township was Dr. Niven Agnew, who located his first medical office and residence in Boynton Hotel, in Prince Albert.

Niven Agnew was born on May 6, 1828, in Edinburgh, Scotland, a son for John and Hume (Turnbull) Agnew. He came to Canada in 1833 and settled in Ontario, initially working as a farmer and later engaging in the insurance business.

He was educated at Victoria College (Cobourg), graduating in 1858 with a medical degree from McGill University (Montreal).

He settled in Prince Albert about 1860 and was married to Jane Sommerville Ross on January 14, 1863 in that village. They had seven children in ten years. Niven's wife Jane, 34, died in Toronto as a young mother on April 19, 1875, following a miscarriage. Two years later he married Jennie E. McEwen on July 19, 1877, in York (Toronto), Ontario.

Dr. Agnew and his wife moved to Winnipeg in 1879, following his lawyer son John, who became a prominent politician in the western province. Here he specialized in diseases of the eye, ear, and throat, and served for a period as City Health Officer. In 1885, he moved to Brandon, Manitoba where he continued to practice medicine.

Dr. Niven Agnew spent the rest of his life in Manitoba, passing away on March 1, 1905 at St. Paul, Minnesota, having lived a long life of 76 years.

N. AGNEW, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, AND AC-
COUCHEUR, Medical Adviser of the
Scottish Provincial Life Assurance Com-
pany, PRINCE ALBERT.
May 1859



Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite

1840 -1879

Frances Horne Brathwaite was born in Middlesex, England about 1840 and immigrated as a young man to Canada, settling in Reach Township as early as 1855.

In 1865, he took over the practice of Dr. Niven Agnew of Prince Albert. About 1871 he joined the exodus of business moving from Prince Albert to Port Perry due to the arrival of train service to the village. He moved into an attractive brick house and set up his new office, which was located at the corner of Queen Street and Lilla Streets, across from the Port Perry Town Hall.

Dr. Frank, as he became known, married Anna Warren about 1869, and the couple had two children, Augustus and William.

Dr. Brathwaite became severely ill about 1873 and suspended his service to the people of Prince Albert and Port Perry for a time. On the urging of more than 200 residents of the townships, he agreed to return to Port Perry as soon as his health and strength permitted. Dr. Brathwaite did return to work for a short time, but at only 38 years of age, died in Port Perry on July 15, 1879.

A notice of his death, in the local newspaper reported: "Deceased had been in the habit of taking advantage of the soothing influences of chloroform, to cool down a somewhat excitable, over wrought brain. And as much depends upon the present state of the system for the effects of this narcotic, his having taken it when alone with no one to attend to him, was doubtless the cause of the fatal effects."



Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite

FRANCIS H. BRATHWAITE, M.D., C.M.,
Graduate of University McGill College, Montreal,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, &C,
RESIDENCE—PRINCE ALBERT.

William Augustus Baldwin

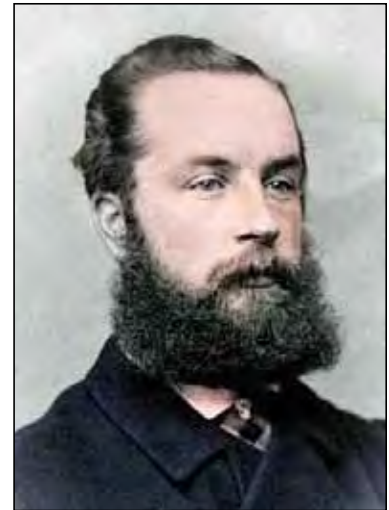
1840 - 1894

William Augustus Baldwin was born on December 6, 1840, in Toronto, Ontario, to Isabella Clarke Buchanan, age 24, and William Augustus Baldwin, age 32. He was the third son in the family of 16 children.

There are no records of him until June 1868 when he arrived in Manchester, Ontario advertising he was a physician, surgeon and accoucheur, from Toronto, and had taken up residence and opened an office in Plank's Hotel.

In July 1868 he entered into a partnership with Dr. F.H. Brathwaite for the practice of medicine at Prince Albert, and one year later he opened the North Ontario Drug Store in the centre of the village. The venture appears not to have been successful last by May 1872, he filed for insolvency.

Dr. Baldwin continued his medical practice for a short time, before leaving Prince Albert and travelling to the far west, near Gimili,



Dr. William A. Baldwin

Manitoba, where it was said "he is doing good service in that far off land", treating a colleague who had contracted Small Pox.

William Baldwin married Ella Winifred Poston, 23, in Emerson, Manitoba, on June 20, 1883, when he was 42 years old. They had two children during their marriage, Charles William and St. George Pentland.

He later returned to Toronto, where he died on July 13, 1894, at the age of 53, and was buried at St. James Cemetery. His wife, Ella, lived to the age of 86, when she passed away on December 21, 1946.



Dr. W.A. Baldwin, left, with Dr. F.H. Brathwaite.

Drs. Brathwaite & Baldwin,
PRINCE ALBERT,
Physicians, Surgeons and Accoucheurs.

L. H. BRATHWAITE, M. D., C. M.
W. A. BALDWIN, M. D.

May 1868

THE NORTH ONTARIO
Drug Store!
Wholesale and Retail.
W. A. BALDWIN, M. D.
Sign of the Pestle and Mortar—opposite Scott's Hotel,
PRINCE ALBERT!

The Subscriber offers to the public none but pure Drugs—the best qualities of Chemicals, Dye Stuffs, Paints, Varnishes, and Brushes, and thoroughly reliable Patent Medicines, and at the lowest remunerative rates.

STATIONERY in all its departments at the lowest prices; a choice assortment of cheap Albums.
An elegant and choice variety of Perfumery.
Trusses, Shoulder Braces, and Surgical Instruments of every make.

☞ The purest Brands of Pale Brandy, Port and Sherry Wines, Gin, Old Rye and Common Whisky—for Medicinal Purposes only.

N. B. Physicians' prescriptions carefully and personally prepared.

Having Purchased the stock and interest of Mr. W. Yates, the business is now under my control and management, and no expense will be spared in procuring and always keeping on hand first class Drugs, Chemicals, &c., &c., and everything in my line, of such a quality as cannot fail to meet the public appreciation and patronage.

July 29, 1869
W. A. BALDWIN, M. D.

Photographs of Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite and Dr. William A. Baldwin, are courtesy of Joanna (Brathwaite) Austin, of Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. Mrs. Austin is a great-great granddaughter of Dr. Francis Brathwaite.



Dr. George Clemens

Dr. George Clemens 1857- 1917

George H. Clemens, was a native of Waterloo County, Ontario where he was born on March 20, 1857. His father was Oliver Clemens and his mother Elizabeth.

George Clemens was educated at the Galt Collegiate Institute, and afterwards graduated at Victoria University, Cobourg. He studied his profession at the Toronto School of Medicine, from which he received his diploma in 1880, in which year he began to practice his profession in Berlin.

He married Emma Celia Van Camp on August 31, 1881, in Kitchener, Ontario and they had one son, Lewis Waldemar Clemens.

In January 1883 Dr. G.H. Clemens and his family moved to Port Perry where he became successor to J.D. Anderson. His office was located over Corrigan's store. The doctor moved again in April 1885, this time locating his office and residence opposite the Town Hall, at the corner of Queen and Lilla St. (Simcoe).

On Saturday morning August 24, 1895, about four o'clock in the morning, Dr. Clemens was awakened by smoke, only to discover that his fine house was on fire. The flames spread with such rapidity that he had barely time to escape and soon

the whole structure, together with its valuable contents, were nothing but a heap of debris.

Loss was \$11,000, but he was only insured for \$6,000 on the house, and \$3,000 on the contents. Mrs. Lillie Clemens and her son, Louie, were away at Niagara at the time of the fire.

It was speculated the doctor would rebuild at once, although an article in the newspaper later that year said he would not start until the following spring. Dr. Clemens never did rebuild the house but in January 1896, due to failing health, Dr. Clemens took in a partner, Dr. E.L. Procter.

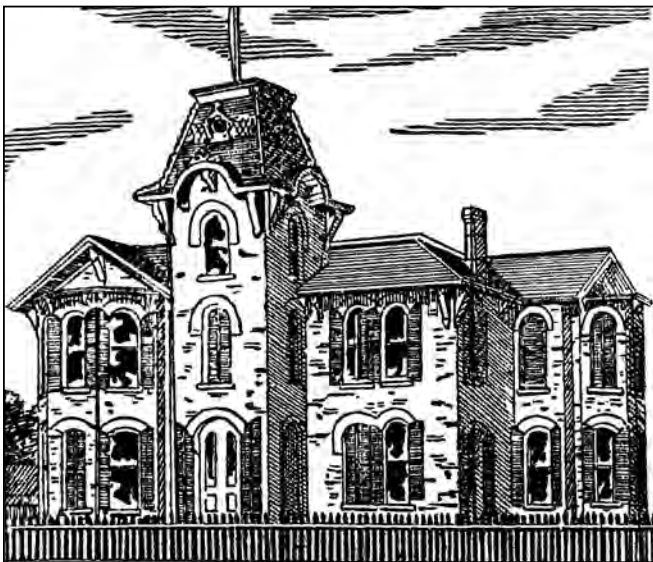
In December 1896 his good friend J.W. Meharry hosted a gathering of 75 guests at a party given as a farewell to the popular doctor and his wife.

Before leaving Port Perry, Dr. Clemens sold the vacant property to his partner. Dr. Procter took over

ownership in January 1897, rebuilt a new home and office on the site and practiced medicine there until 1908, when he moved to Whitby to continue his practice.

Dr. George Clemens died on September 23, 1917, in Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 60.

His wife, Emma, died on December 9, 1913, at the age of 57.



Dr. Clemens beautiful brick home, and office at the corner of Queen and Simcoe Street was destroyed by fire in August, 1895.

Drs. Clemens & Procter,
PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, Etc.
Office—Over Miss McKenzie's Store, Queen Street
Residence—Opposite Methodist Church.
G. H. CLEMENS, M.D., C.M.
Office hours—11 a. m. to 4 p. m.
E. L. PROCTER, M.D., C.M.
Honor Graduate of Trinity University, Toronto,
Fellow of Trinity Medical College,
Mem. of Col. of Physicians and Surgeons, Ont.,
Licentiate of University of State of New York.
Office hours—9 to 11 a.m., 4 to 6 p.m., and Evenings

October 8, 1896

Dr. Edgar L. Procter*

1866 - 1947

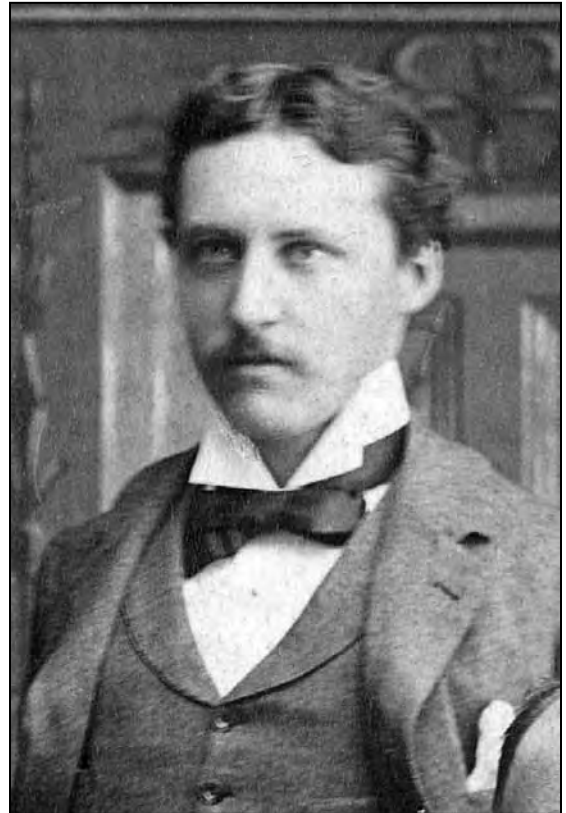
Edgar Lovell Procter, but he was born on September 29, 1866 in Bolton Percy, Yorkshire, England. He was one of two sons for Lovell James Procter and Frances (Woodrow). The Procters also had four daughters during the marriage.

When he was 15 years old, Edgar was living in Bradfield, Berkshire, England where he was a student attending St. Andrews College. After graduation, in 1885 he immigrated to Canada, where he graduated as medical doctor. About 1893, Dr. Procter moved to Port Perry and became a medical partner to Dr. George Clemens. When Dr. Clemens retired in 1895, Dr. Procter took over his practice.

He was 30 years old, on October 28, 1896, when he married Alice Ruth Fennell at (Berlin) Waterloo, Ontario. They had one child, Alice T. Procter, born in 1898 in Port Perry.

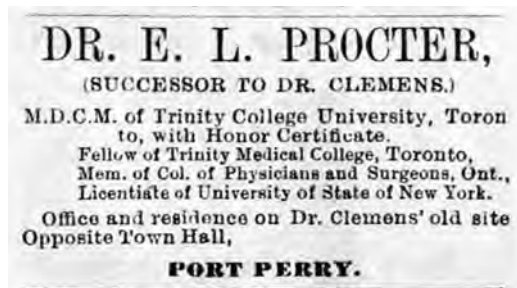
After taking over the the practice, he built a new home to replace one destroyed in a fire. He operated out of this home at the corner of Queen and Simcoe Street until 1908 when he moved his practice to Whitby, Ontario.

Dr. Procter was living with his daughter at Columbus, when he died on April 19, 1947 in Oshawa, Ontario. He was 80 years old. Following a funeral at the McIntosh Funeral Home, Oshawa, he was taken to Kitchener for a service and burial at Mount Hope Cemetery. His wife Alice died in 1954 and was buried beside her husband.



Dr. E. L. Procter

* NOTE: Dr. Procter's surname in many records is spelled either "Procter" or "Proctor".



May 27, 1897



Dr. E.L. Procter built this new house and medical office in 1897, replacing Dr. Clemens home, destroyed by fire two years earlier.

Early Advertisements by local Doctors

DR. H. M. HAIGHT,
Botanic Physician
 BORELIA, C.W.
 Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857.

F. OAKLEY, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN, Surgeon, and Accoucher,
 Medical Adviser of the "Unity" Life Assurance Company of London. Office and Residence—The late residence of R. Lund, Esq., Port Perry, C. W.

May 1859

DR. JONES,
ASSOCIATE CORONER
 FOR THE COUNTY OF ONTARIO,
 PRINCE ALBERT.

August 1866

N. AGNEW, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, AND ACCOUCHER, Medical Adviser of the Scottish Provincial Life Assurance Company, PRINCE ALBERT.

May 1859

Drs. MARTIN & TWEEDIE,
MANCHESTER,—Office, at the residence of Dr. Tweedie, in the premises known as the Powson Property, where Dr. Tweedie may be consulted at all hours, and Dr. Martin every alternate Wednesday. Entrance to the office, 2nd door south side the building.
 C. E. MARTIN, M.D., | G. TWEEDIE, M.D.,
 Lindsay. | Manchester.

August 1862

J. E. WARE, M.D.,
Coroner for the County of Ontario,
 PHYSICIAN, SURGEON AND ACCOUCHER,
 PRINCE ALBERT.

June 1869

DRS. FOOTE & WARREN,
BROOKLIN, CANADA WEST.
 J. FOOTE, M. D. | H. WARREN, M. D.

February 1862

F. OAKLEY, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN, Surgeon, and Accoucher,
 Medical Adviser of the "Unity" Life Assurance Company of London. Office and Residence—The late residence of R. Lund, Esq., Port Perry, C. W.

February 1863

R. JONES, M. D.,
CORONER
 FOR THE COUNTY OF ONTARIO;
 PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, &C.
OFFICE and Residence—over Allison & Pettit's Drug Store, Port Perry.

November 1875

GEO. W. JONES, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN, Surgeon, and Obstetrician,
 Medical Adviser of the Life Association of Scotland, Simcoe-St., Prince Albert.
 Residence and Office, in the building lately occupied by Rev. J. Law, two doors north of Capt. Sinclair's Grocery Store.

February 1863

DRS. JONES & OLVER, Physicians,
 Surgeons, &c., Port Perry.
 R. JONES, M.D., J. B. OLVER, M.D.,
 Coroner, Residence, Lilla St.
 Residence, Queen St.
 Port Perry, Dec 19, 1883.

Dr. N. J. Barker
PHYSICIAN and SURGEON
 Offices at Grace Hospital, John St.
 Port Perry. Phone 129 r 3

February 1930

Dr. Elisha Jessop

1843 -1918

Although Dr. Elisha Jessop never did practice medicine in Port Perry or Reach Township, he was raised here and had an illustrious career in medicine and politics.

Elisha Jessop was born in Norfolk, England, in January 1843, one of four children for John and Mary Jessop. When he was six years of age his family immigrated to Upper Canada, by way of New York, USA. Eventually they made their way to Toronto before moving on and settling on a farm in the Township of Reach, North Ontario.

He was educated in the public schools of the Township of Reach and Port Perry High School. He graduated from the Toronto Normal School in 1864. After working as a teacher in several small communities, Elisha entered the University of Toronto, graduating in 1870. He immediately enrolled in the University of Toronto School of Medicine and graduated as a medical doctor.

After graduating in 1874, Dr. Jessop set up a practice in the town of Jordan, Ontario, near St. Catharines. A decade later, he left his practice and returned to England for further studies, returning to Canada and settling in St. Catharines in 1887.

In 1898, at 55 years of age, Dr. Jessop was elected as the Conservative Party representative for the County of Lincoln. This began a 20 year political career of which 12 years were spent as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Dr. Jessop died of heart problems on October 24, 1918, while still sitting as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. He was buried at Victoria Lawn Cemetery in St. Catharines. He was a member of the Sons of England and the Church of England and became an honorary member of the Niagara Historical Society in 1900.

Note: Although Dr. Jessop had left his home in Port Perry sometime during the mid-1860s, he and his family continued to own property in the town. After the tragic fire which destroyed the town in July 1884, Dr. Jessop was listed as one of those who had lost a building valued at \$1,100. During 1885, Dr. Jessop rebuilt the block in a style to blend with the architecture of new town.



Dr. Elisha Jessop

Dr. James A. Mathers

1893 -1959

Five years after being discharged from the Canadian Army Medical Corps., Lieutenant Dr. James Andrew Mathers came to Port Perry to take over Dr. Samuel Mellow's practice, after he died in 1925.

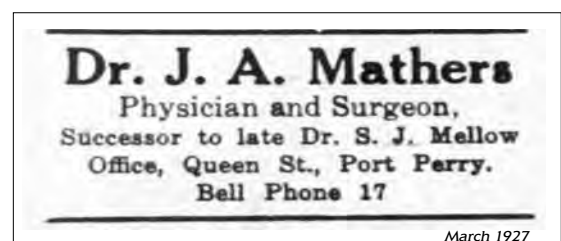
Dr. Mathers was born at Stroud, Innisfil Township, Ontario on October 20, 1893, a son for Frederick Wm. and Annie M. (Black) Mathers.

When he was 24 years of age, he married Minnie Isabel McDonald, on January 25, 1918, two months after he enlisted into the army. They had two children, Donald and Lloyd.

Dr. Mather was a member of the COTC in Toronto for three years before enlisted in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force on November 1, 1917 and served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. and Canadian Convalescent Hospital and was discharged in January 1920.

Dr. Mather treated the people of Port Perry and area for seven years, before departing in 1932, to take a position at Hudson River State Hospital, a psychiatric hospital, in Poughkeepsie, New York.

He passed away on May 19, 1959 in New York at the age of 65 years.



Dr. Nathaniel McClinton

1838 - 1927

Dr. Nathaniel McClinton was born in Ireland in 1838, one of seven children for his parents, William and Rachel McClinton. After immigrating to Canada as a young man about 1852, he settled in Scott Township, where he lived until the early 1870s. He graduated with his medical degree in 1865.

About a year after graduating, he married to Mary Ferguson of Uxbridge, Ontario on August 2, 1866. Dr. McClinton and Mary had seven children during their 61 years of marriage. In 1874, the family moved to Port Perry, where four of their children were born between 1874 and 1882.



Dr. N. McClinton

Dr. McClinton operated his medical practice from Saintfield, Ontario, for a number of years, and after selling it to Dr. Fergus Black of Uxbridge, he bound himself to not practise medicine within seven miles of Saintfield. One night Dr. McClinton was asked to deliver a baby within the seven-mile limit, so the doctor refused and stated his reason.

The husband avowed he didn't want Dr. Black and would get another Port Perry doctor, so Dr. McClinton yielded and delivered the baby. After finishing, he drove to Saintfield to tell Dr. Black of what he had done and offered Dr. Black a goodly share of his fee.

Dr. Black flew into a rage and within a few days, he sued Dr. McClinton for \$5,000 damages. When the case came on, he could not prove he had lost a cent and Dr. McClinton won. The people about Saintfield now became so turned against Dr. Black that he didn't stay in Saintfield long after, and moved to Goodwood.

After leaving Port Perry, Dr. McClinton and his family moved to Michigan, USA. In 1900 he and his Mary retired moving to an area around Jensen, Florida where they purchased three acres along the Indian River and had a home built. Here Dr. McClinton grew pineapples on the property and cared for patients as needed.

As an elderly man, Dr. Clinton would make house calls, traveling either by walking, horse and buggy or boat in the region from Fort Pierce to Hobe Sound. Occasionally he left the buggy at the north end of the railroad bridge over the St. Lucie and walked across to Stuart on foot. Eventually the medical practice was limited to just the Jensen area.

Dr. Nathaniel McClinton was 90 years old when died on May 22, 1927, at Saginaw, Michigan, and was interred at Oakwood Cemetery, at Saginaw. His wife Mary died about one year earlier.

N. McCLINTON, M. D.,
Physician and Accouchuer.
Office & Residence—Sonya, Brck.

August 1866

Dr. Francis Oakley

1830 - 1902

Francis Oakley was born about 1830 in Ontario and when he was about 20 years old married 19 year old Jeanette Chisholm.

There is no record of him before the 1861 Census shows his family living in Reach Twp., and Francis working as a school teacher. By this time the Oakley's had two children.

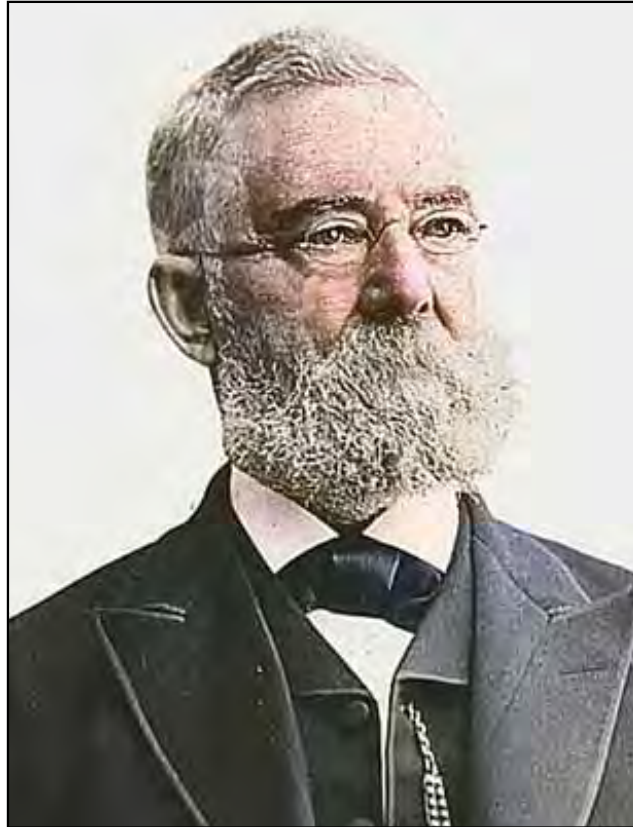
By 1863 he had become involved in his new community and of local politics. He became a secretary for the local Reform Party, and was heavily involved in education matters, serving as a school trustee for Prince Albert and Manilla, and also in 1872 becoming Port Perry's representative as a Trustee of High Schools of Ontario County.

His first stay in Port Perry was short, with him relocating his office to Manilla in 1866, and taking over the residence of Dr. Bain. He returned to Port Perry in the early 1870s for an undetermined time.

After leaving Port Perry, by 1881, he was had relocated to Streetsville, Ontario. He served here for a number of years before moving to Toronto, where he continued his work as a physician until his death on May 7, 1902.

Dr. J. Herbert Sangster

1829 - 1904



Dr. J. Herbert Sangster

Dr. H.J. Sangster, a notable figure in the Canadian medical and education world, passed away at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto on January 27, 1904, after suffering from a serious heart attack.

Dr. Sangster was born in London, England on March 26, 1829. He immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1837, the family settling on land in York County.

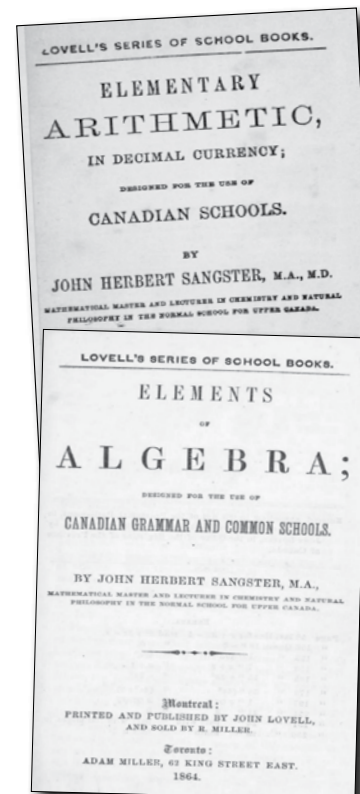
He received his early education at Upper Canada College and Victoria Medical School. While living in Toronto, he was a member of the Hunt Club and the Royal Canadian Yacht Club.

He worked in the education field until 1871, after having served for 10 years as Head Master of Normal and Model Schools in Toronto and Hamilton.

During this time, he wrote a number of educational books – National Arithmetic, in Theory and Practice, Elements of Algebra and also Elementary Arithmetic, in Decimal Currency, all which was designed for Canadian Schools.

While teaching as a professor of chemistry and botany at Rolph's Medical School, Toronto, he began the study of medicine and earned his degree of M.D.

After retiring from educational work in 1871, he commenced his medical practice in Chicago. He returned a few years later and continued his practice in Toronto, then in November 1874 moved



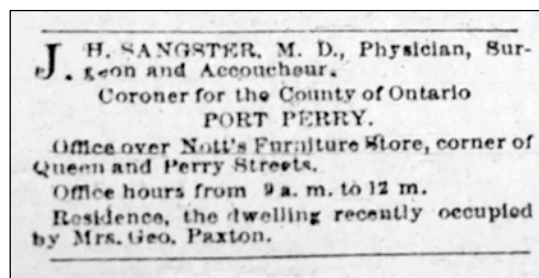
to Port Perry and set up a medical practice, and constructed a new home at the north end of the town.

In 1881 his beautiful home was destroyed by fire, so he built an even larger and more commodious residence at his Beechenhurst property. His new palatial white brick house, described as one of the best in the province, was destroyed by fire in February 1893.

Dr. Sangster was a man of exceptional ability and commanded the respect and admiration of all those who knew him. He served as a member of the Ontario Medical Council and was often called on to be a guest speaker. His main interest outside his practice of medicine, was horticulture.

Dr. Sangster was twice married. In 1851 he married Mary Price, 16, in Chicago, Illinois. They had seven children in 14 years. His second marriage was to Caroline Elizabeth McCausland in Toronto who gave birth to three sons and one daughter.

Dr. J.H. Sangster was 74 years old at the time of his death, on January 27, 1904. He left his widow, Caroline, three sons. He was a member of the Church of England, and was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert. His wife, Caroline Sangster passed away in York, Ontario, on April 1, 1916, at 86 years.



Dr. Sangster's newspaper ad from 1892.

Right: Dr. Sangster's first home which was destroyed by fire in 1881.

Below: Dr. Sangster built an even larger and more luxurious home after his first home was destroyed. Unfortunately fate returned, the his magnificent estate home was destroyed by fire in 1893.



Colorized photograph



Dr. Richard Jones

Dr. Richard Jones

1834 - 1917

Dr. Richard Jones was a son of the late Rev. George Jones, a Methodist clergyman, and his wife Laura Mallory, and was born in Clarke Township, Durham County, on January 9, 1834.

He received his education in the Public Schools of the district and at Albert College, Belleville, and afterwards graduated in medicine from the University of Buffalo. Dr. Jones later took up post graduate work in New York City in order to better fit himself for his life-long work and one in which his heart delighted, that of ministering to the needs of others. He began the practice of his profession at Madoc about a year before the discovery of gold, which resulted in such a keen interest being taken in that district and a consequent boom in population.

After three years, however, Dr. Jones removed to Port Perry, Ontario, where he entered into a partnership with his brother, Dr. George W. Jones, who later removed to Imlay City, Michigan. Dr. Jones resided at Port Perry for over 20 years during which he carried on a large and successful practice among all classes in town and country. He was pre-eminently a doctor of the old school and gave

to the poor freely and cheerfully not only professional services but food and medicine. He was not only to them the good and trusted doctor but also the kind friend and sympathizer. Dr. Jones was therefore called "the poor man's doctor."

He served a Reeve of Port Perry in 1882; a member of council, trustee of the High School Board from the time of its organization until his removal from the town, a member of the Library Board, in fact a helper in every good work.

In 1887 he removed to Toronto where he continued his practice until his removal to Cobourg in 1901. About five years ago on account of illness Dr. Jones retired from practice and devoted himself to the cultivation of orchard and garden at his residence on D'Arcy Street. Two years ago he had a serious illness from which he only partially recovered.

Ten days before his death he was taken with pneumonia which, although the lungs cleared, so enfeebled his system that he passed peacefully away early Saturday morning, at his late residence "Avalea", Cobourg on December 15, 1917.

In 1865 Dr. Jones married to Miss Lucinda R. Mallory, only daughter of the late C. R. Mallory, Esq., Front Road, East. His devoted wife and their only daughter, Miss Laura L. Jones, B.A., of the C.C. I. staff, survived him.

The funeral was held on Sunday afternoon when many friends gathered at the home to pay a last tribute of respect. Rev. H. B. Kenny conducted a helpful service, with words of appreciation for the service and life of the one who had passed on before, and of comfort to those who remained. The interment was in the Cobourg Union Cemetery.



Surgery and residence of R. Jones, M.D., Coroner, Physician, Surgeon, Queen St., Port Perry.



Dr. George W. Jones

Dr. George W. Jones

1839 - 1914

George W. Jones was born on February 11, 1839, at Orono, Ont., one of 11 children for his parents, Rev. George Jones and his mother, Laura (Mallory) Jones.

He received his common and grammar school education in his hometown and afterward attend the medical department of Victoria College, Toronto, and the University of Buffalo Medical College where he earned his degree of M.D. in 1857.

Dr. George Jones commenced his medical career in Prince Albert in 1860 on Simcoe St., and later moved to King St., near the Anglo-American Hotel. By October 1866 the young doctor was appointed Associate Corner for the County of Ontario.

In 1868, the brothers opened an office above Allison's Drug Store, and also opened a drug store on Queen St.

When he was 29 years of age, Dr. G.W. Jones, became embroiled in controversy, when his application for a divorce from his wife Anne Catherine for adultery was refused. He moved to Michigan, then returned a few years later, taking with him young Anna Elizabeth Paxton to be his bride. A malicious scandal followed,

with Dr. Jones being accused of kidnapping young Miss Paxton, all of which disputed as mere fabrications by both Dr. Jones and Anna.

After finally receiving his divorce, George and Anna were married on December 22, 1870, at Port Huron, Michigan and immediately moved to Imlay City.

Dr. Jones was the first physician to settle in Imlay City, Michigan, arriving there one day after his marriage to Anna. He immediately became active in the community, becoming the first president of the newly chartered Imlay City, served as Postmaster for 12 years, was a member of the School Board, and spent 24 years on the Imlay City Fair Association, seven years as president.

Dr. Jones was in active practice until near the end of his life and in the full possession of his mental powers. He was honoured with a complimentary dinner to mark his whole life as a medical professional in Michigan. At this time he was the oldest physician in active practice in the state.

He passed away at Imlay City on Saturday, September 29, 1928 at the age of 89 years. He was held in high esteem and had been prominently identified with the business of Imlay City for 60 years at the time of his death. His wife, Anna, predeceased him on February 13, 1914.



Dr. George W. Jones, abt. 1925.

GEO. W. JONES, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN and Surgeon, Prince Albert. Residence and Office—Simcoe Street, one door south of the Review office.
Nov. 21, 1860. 49-ly

DRS. JONES & JONES,
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS,
RESPECTFULLY advise the public that they have formed a partnership for the practice of their profession.
 All calls received at their respective places of residence will be promptly attended to.
G. W. JONES, M. D. | **R. JONES, M. D.**
Coroner, County of | *Late residence of Dr.*
Ontario, | *Oakley,*
PRINCE ALBERT. | **PORT PERRY.**
April 20th, 1867. | **37**

Dr. Edgar C. McDowell

1863 - ??

Edgar Crichton McDowell was born in June 1863 in Prescott, Ontario, to parents David and Sarah Ann (Metcalf). He was one of seven children in the McDowell family.

His father, David C. McDowell became a Methodist ministers and in 1891 he was superannuated and lived in Port Perry for two years before being moved to Bowmanville.

Whether a coincidence, or planned, about the same time his father arrived in Port Perry, Dr. E.C. McDowell set up a medical practice in the town, partnering with Dr. W.C. Hamill. He came with impeccable credentials as a member of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario; a Master of Surgery, Victoria University, and an attendant of Soho Hospital for diseases for women and children in London, England.

He was 30 years old when married Emma "Edith" Louise Parrish, 22, on December 6, 1893, in Port Perry, Ontario. Emma was the daughter of highly respected businessman, William T. Parrish, of Port Perry.

Drs. Hamill & McDowell.	
DR. HAMILL GRADUATE of Victoria University. Member of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. OFFICE AND RESIDENCE—Queen St., opposite Mr. Tunmond's Store. OFFICE HOURS—9 to 11 a.m.; 2 to 5 p.m., and Evenings.	DR. McDOWELL LICENSED of Royal College of Physicians, London, Eng. Member of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. OFFICE AND RESIDENCE—Queen St., opposite Mr. Tunmond's Store. OFFICE HOURS—9 to 11 a.m.; 2 to 5 p.m., and Evenings.

Dr. McDowell became successor to Dr. Hamill's clinic in September 1891 and practiced at his office, at the northeast corner of Queen and John Street, until November 1894, when he Dr. Samuel J. Mellow arrived. About one year later, in September 1895, Dr. McDowell sold his practice to Dr. Mellow, who continued to work from the same location.

There are no records of where Dr. McDowell relocated after leaving Port Perry. In 1900 he was living in Dickinson Michigan and by 1922 was in Detroit.

DR. E. C. McDOWELL,
SUCCESSOR TO DR. HAMILL. M. D., Master of Surgery, Victoria University; Licentiate of Royal College of Physicians, London, Eng.; Member of College of Physicians & Surgeons, Ontario. Late attendant of Soho Hospital for Diseases of Women, and of Great Denon Hospital for Diseases of Children, London, Eng. Physician, Surgeon, &c., Office hours—8 to 10 a. m., 1 to 4 p. m., and evenings. Office and residence, Dr. Hamill's old stand. Queen St., - - Port Perry. Port Perry, Feb. 17, 1891.

Dr. William E. Hamill

1859 - 1914

William Edward Hamill was born on June 24, 1859, at Markham Ontario and after his high school education, he attended Victoria University Medical Department, Cobourg, graduating in 1880 and becoming a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

Two years after graduating, while working as a physician and druggist in Mount Albert, Ontario, he married Ellen Rebecca Hopkins of Holt, Ontario on September 27, 1882.

Dr. Hamill was 26 years old when he opened his practice in Port Perry, in 1885. Two years later he became the successor to Dr. Richard Jones who moved to Cobourg. His office and residence were located on the north side of Queen St., and for a short time in 1890 he partnered with Dr. E.C. McDowell.

Dr. Hamill provided medical service to the community for six years, until September 1891, when he announced he was moving to Toronto. At the same time he announced that Dr. E.C. McDowell would assume his practice.

William Edward Hamill died in Toronto on May 31, 1914.

DR. HAMILL,
[SUCCESSOR TO DR. JONES.] PORT PERRY, - - ONTARIO. Office and Residence—Opposite Tunmond's Store—corner Queen and John streets. Office hours—9 to 11 a. m.; 2 to 5 p. m., and evenings.

Dr. Milton Youmans

1837 - 1898

Milton Youmans was born in 1837 in Prince Edward Cty., Ontario, to parents David and Sophia. He was married to Harriet E. Phelps on February 13, 1869, in Lincoln, Ont., and they raised four children.

He became a doctors, graduating from Victoria College, Toronto, and in April 1868 arrived in Port Perry and established a medical clinic. It appears his stay in the village was very brief, with the last mention of his office coming in September the same year.

An 1888 Directory show he was living in St. Catherines, Ontario, where he practiced medicine.

He died on November 3, 1898, in St Catharines, Ontario, at the age of 61.

M. YOUMANS, M. D.
PORT PERRY, ONT., PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, ACCOUCH- EUR, &c. Graduate of the University of Victoria College, Toronto. REFERENCES:—Hon. J. BOLPH, M. D., M. R. C. S., &c. J. H. SANDER, M. A., M. D., &c. Port Perry, April 14th, 1868. 36

Jabez Bunting Olver

1844 - 1934

Jabez Bunting Olver was born on November 9, 1844, in England. No further records of the youngster until he immigrated to Canada in 1855.

After arriving in Canada he attended Victoria University, Toronto, where he graduated as a physician, surgeon and accoucheur. During his half-century as a doctor he served many communities throughout Ontario.

He was working in Whitby when he met Julia Ann Hall and they were married in 1865. During their life together they raised eight children.

Dr. Olver and his family left Whitby in 1868, and came north to Reach Township where established his medical practice in Greenbank. He provided medical service for that location until at least 1873, after which he relocated to Oil Springs, Ont., and later in Castleton, Ontario.

It's unclear when he returned to Port Perry, but by November 1883 Dr. Olver was recorded as living on Mary Street, where he was in a partnership with the village coroner, Dr. Richard Jones. By the end of the decade he had returned to Oil Springs for a short time, before moving to Newcastle, Ontario. He finally settled in Toronto in the early 1900s.

Jabez Bunting Olver passed away on February 7, 1913, in York (Toronto), Ontario, at the age of 68. His wife Julia Ann was 90 when she died on February 21, 1934, in Peterborough, Ont.

J. B. OLVER, M. D.,
GRADUATE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY,
Physician, Surgeon and Accoucheur,
Greenbank.

DRS. JONES & OLVER, Physicians,
Surgeons, &c., Port Perry
R. JONES, M.D., J. B. OLVER, M.D.,
Corner, Residence, Mary St.
Residence, Queen St.
Port Perry, Dec 19, 1883,

Dr. George S. Jeffrey

1894 - 1970

Dr. George Stanley Jeffrey practiced about four years in Port Perry, first associated with Dr. Alvie E. Stewart and Dr. David Archer at the Archer Clinic on Queen Street, and later with Dr. George M. Rennie.

Born in Caledonia, Ontario on December 28, 1894, he received his elementary and high school education in his home town. He then attended a term at Chatham Model School and two years in the teaching profession before graduating from the University of Toronto Medical College in 1920.

He spent two years on the staff of Muskoka Hospital and nearly five years at the Queen Alexandra Sanatorium at London, Ontario. He left there in 1927, joining the doctors at the Port Perry Medical Centre. In May 1932 he returned to London.

Dr. Jeffrey and his wife Norma had two children, Barbara and William. Their son William was born during his brief stay in Port Perry. Dr. George S. Jeffrey died in 1970 and was buried in London, Ontario.

Drs. Jeffrey & Rennie
Medicine - Surgery - X-Ray
PORT PERRY, ONT.
Phone 12W

Dr. Alvie E. Stewart

1893 - 1947

Dr. Alvie Earl Stewart born October 24, 1893 in Hamilton, Ontario to parents, Luther and Nancy Fletcher Stewart. He was drafted into military service in 1918. Married to Violet Forman, July 24, 1920.

Dr. Stewart came to Port Perry and took over the surgical part of Dr. Robert Archer's practice in 1927, following his death. Dr. Alvie only stayed for two years in Port Perry before leaving to spend a year in Oshawa. He next moved to Toronto to continue his medical career.

Dr. Alvie Stewart was 53 years old when he died on February 4, 1947 at Mimico, Ontario.

The Doc's Clinics



Home and office for Drs. George Clemens and Dr. E. L. Procter.



Dr. George Clemens



Dr. E. L. Procter

Before modern medical buildings, which provided a variety of health services became a reality in the mid-1900s, most doctors practiced their profession from their homes, or from separate medical offices on the property, adjacent to their homes.

Dr. Brathwaite had his home and offices in the original home on this property (across from Town Hall 1873) until he died in 1879.

The next doctor to occupy the house was Dr. George Clemens, and it was during his ownership that the original house was destroyed by fire in 1895. He retired due to failing health the following year and sold the property to his partner, Dr. E. L.

Procter, who constructed a new home and office.

Dr. Procter continued to provide health care from his home office until 1908 when he moved to Whitby.

Dr. Douglas Berry took over the practice in 1908 and remained at this site for ten years. He was the last doctor to occupy the house and run a medical clinic from this location.



Dr. Richard Jones had a medical clinic, beside his home, on the northeast corner of Queen and Bigelow Streets, in the 1800s.



Dr. Richard Jones

This attractive house served as both the home and site of Dr. Richard Jones medical practice. He moved into this home at the corner of Queen and Casimir Street in 1874. His medical clinic was in a small, separate building, just west of his house on the same property.



Dr. Samuel J. Mellow

Dr. S. J. Mellow's home, and medical clinic at 249 Queen St., during the early 1900s. (colorized)

Dr. Samuel J. Mellow is the best known of the doctors who practiced medicine from this property.

Dr. Mellow arrived in 1898 and five years later had constructed this attractive home, featuring a medical clinic adjacent to his house.

Dr. Mellow practiced here until his death in 1925.

Other doctors who leased the property from the Mellow family included Dr. James A Mathers; Dr. William S. Harper, Dr. Ross Hamilton and the last one to use the facility, Dr. Roy Irwin.



Home and offices of Port Perry doctors at 230 Queen Street during until a new medical building was constructed about 1950.

Dr. David Archer, set up office in this house in Port Perry during 1891, and practiced medicine in Port Perry and area for 37 years before moving to Oshawa in 1928. His brother Dr. Robert Archer joined him in 1897.

Dr. George Jeffery began work with Dr. D. Archer after the death of his brother, and in 1829 Dr. George Rennie joined the clinic.

In 1930 the Archers sold their home and clinic to surgeons, Dr. Rennie and Dr. Jeffrey for \$10,000.

In 1932 Dr. C. P. Peterson joined the Clinic, and ten years later, Dr. Matthew B. Dymond began his practice there as well.



Dr. David Archer



Dr. Robert Archer



Dr. George M. Rennie



Dr. Matthew B. Dymond



Dr. C.P. Peterson



Port Perry Medical Centre

The exact date the Port Perry Medical Centre building was constructed has not been determined, but it is believed to have been between 1950-1952. The above picture was taken in 1958.

The clinic building was constructed by Dr. George Rennie and Dr. M.B. Dymond in the early 1950s. It consisted of doctor's offices on the main floor and in 1955, provided office space for Dr. Robert McNab, a local dentist. Dr. Rennie continued his practice in this building until he retired in 1976, and Dr. Dymond withdrew his service in August 1957, with Dr. John Diamond taking over his practice.

Dr. Roy Irwin practiced in the Port Perry Medical Clinic until 1953 when he was replaced by Dr. Stephen Kandel, who held office here for 17 years, leaving in 1970.

Others to provide medical services to the community from this building were Dr. Michael Tanna, Dr. Tom Millar (1972-1976), Dr. Russel Martin (1970-1976).

The Port Perry Medical Centre building was sold to two new young dentists, Dr. Jack Cottrell and Dr. Jim Hardy in 1976. The new owners operated their dental clinic on the second floor, with an staircase on the outside of the building on the east side of the building which lead to their offices.

The Medical Clinic on the ground floor closed in May 1982, at which time Port Perry Dental Centre took over the entire building.



Dr. John Diamond



Dr. Stephen Kandel



Dr. Tom Millar



Dr. Michael Tanna



Dr. Russell Martin

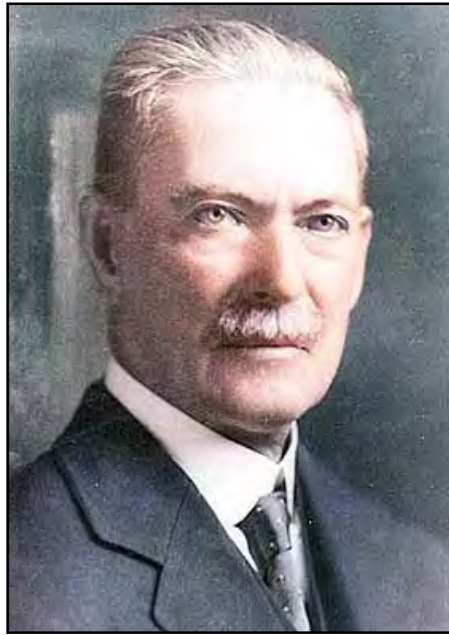


Dr. John McIntyre



Dr. Guntis Silins

Dr. David Archer 1857 - 1939



Dr. David Archer

Dr. David Archer, one of the senior members of the Ontario County Medical Association, died at Oshawa General Hospital following an illness of some four weeks. His passing removed one of the veterans of the profession in Ontario County, whose practice dated back to the horse and buggy days.

Born in Cartwright Township on August 4, 1857, David Archer, son of Mr. Robert and Eliabeth Archer, attended Bowmanville High School, Hamilton Model School and then started his career as a teacher of mathematics at Smith's Falls High School.

He later entered the study of medicine at Victoria College and after graduation went to England, Scotland and Ireland where he took post graduate work.

Returning home, he began to practice medicine in Port Perry. Dr. David was 27 years old when he married Anna M. Dyer, 22, daughter of Daniel and Mary Dyer of Darlington, Ontario on November 19, 1884. Census records show Dr. Archer was widowed by 1901, but remarried to Caroline (Carrie) Archer some time after that date.

Dr. D. Archer practiced medicine in Port Perry and area for 37 years before moving to Oshawa in 1928. While in Port Perry he was instrumental in having a telephone system installed in the village and district.

He was a member of the medical staff of the Oshawa General Hospital and held in high regard by the medical fraternity there. At a banquet of the Ontario County Medical Association in February 1938, Dr. Archer was presented with a life membership.

Dr. Archer left a lasting legacy and was admired for his self sacrificing and devotion to the relief of suffering. It was written that "the entire community is poorer because he has passed". He was always kindly and considerate to everyone.

Dr. Archer died at Oshawa on Wed., September 20, 1939. Funeral service was held at the family residence, and a large number of sorrowful followed the procession for interment at Pine Grove Cemetery.

DR. D. ARCHER,
M. D. C. M. of Victoria University; M. B. of Toronto University; Member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Ont.; Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Member of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; late Resident Pupil of the Rotundo Hospital, Dublin, for women.
Finding it almost impossible to do justice to either my patrons or myself, owing to my very extensive and rapidly increasing practice, I have taken as partner my brother, Dr. R. Archer, M.D., C comes highly recommended as an and thoroughly successful practitioner.
OFFICE AND RESIDENCE—3 doors west of Willard Block; OFFICE HOURS 9 to 11 a.m. 3 to 5 p.m., and evenings.

September 12, 1897

Dr. Robert Archer

1893 - 1927



Dr. Robert Archer

For more than three decades, “Dr. Bob” as he was affectionately called, labored in Port Perry and neighbouring communities, bringing health and life to thousands who in pain and fear called for his help.

Robert Archer was born in Cartwright Township in 1862. He was one of five sons and three daughters for Robert Sr., and Elizabeth (Hedges) Archer.

Dr. Robert Archer was an accomplished surgeon, who after his post graduate work in New York and at the Mayo Clinic, practiced medicine in North Dakota. His prominence and talent as a surgeon was recognized, but he rejected offers to move to areas more specialized.

He was a leading figure in the medical profession in this vicinity and earned a fine reputation. It was said that he should have taken his work in a more leisurely fashion, but his life was literally dedicated to the health of others.

Dr. Archer was 25 when he married Amelia Herod, 21, at Wentworth, Ontario, on February 4, 1890. They had two children.

Dr. Robert Archer moved to Port Perry to join his brother Dr. David Archer at the Archer Medical Clinic on Queen St. in 1897. He and his wife Amelia purchased a beautiful home on John Street, originally built by Joseph Bigelow for his only daughter.

During his years in Port Perry “Dr. Bob”

became the first person in the village to own a motor vehicle, a 1907 Ford, and he was also first to have a telephone installed in his home.

In 30 years the country doctor came to know and to feel for his patients as personal friends.

Dr. Robert Archer was 65 when he passed away at his home in Port Perry on July 23, 1927, from a stroke.

An impressive tribute ceremony was held at the park beside the Town Hall and a large crowd attended the open air service. Following the funeral he was interred in the family plot at Pine Grove Cemetery.

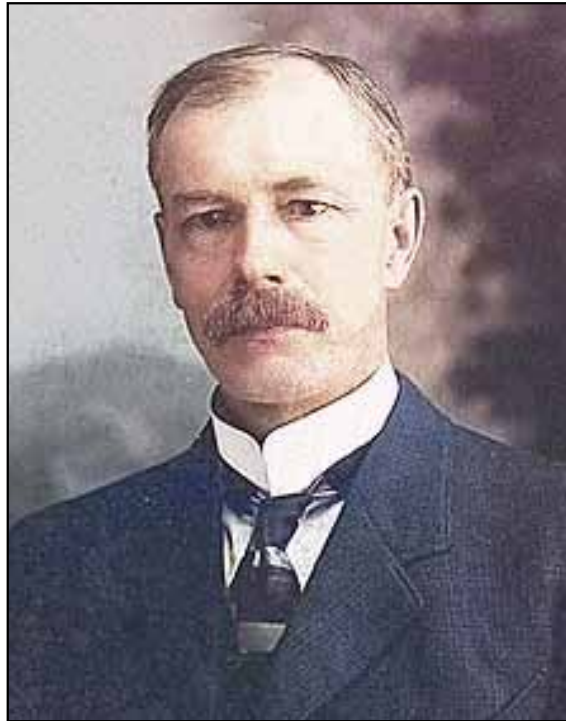
Dr. Archer was survived by one daughter, Minnie (Mrs. Herbert Baker), one son, Harold, and his brother Dr. David Archer. His wife Amelia Archer predeceased him in December 1915.



Dr. Robert and Amelia Archer's home on John Street.

Dr. Samuel J. Mellow

1859 - 1925



Dr. Samuel J. Mellow

Samuel J. Mellow was born Sept. 19, 1859 near the town of Napanee. Following his public and high school education he taught school for three years. Furthering his education he enrolled at Queen's University, graduating in 1886 with a degree in medicine.

Dr. Mellow first practiced medicine at Bath, Ont., where he practiced for three years. While residing at Bath, Dr. Mellow met and married Bertha Louise Armstrong. Shortly after they moved to Bay City, Michigan, where he remained for five years. In 1894 Dr. and Mrs. Mellow moved to Port Perry.

From the time he arrived in Port Perry, he took an active part in the affairs of the town, serving on the council for a number of years and elected as the town's Reeve for 1901 and 1902.

His greatest interest was education and he served as a member Board of Education for 20 years, and held the office of chairman. He was also a member of the Library Board; President of the Public Library, and took a leading roll in promoting the building of a War Memorial Library.

Dr. Mellow had a large practice which was missed by the town following his death. His recreation interests included lawn bowling, tennis, and curling. He maintained his own tennis lawn at his residence.

Dr. Mellow passed away on Thursday, March 2, 1925 at 65 years of age, and was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery. He was survived by his wife Bertha L. (Armstrong) and three daughters, Mrs. Merlin Letcher, Helen and Frances.

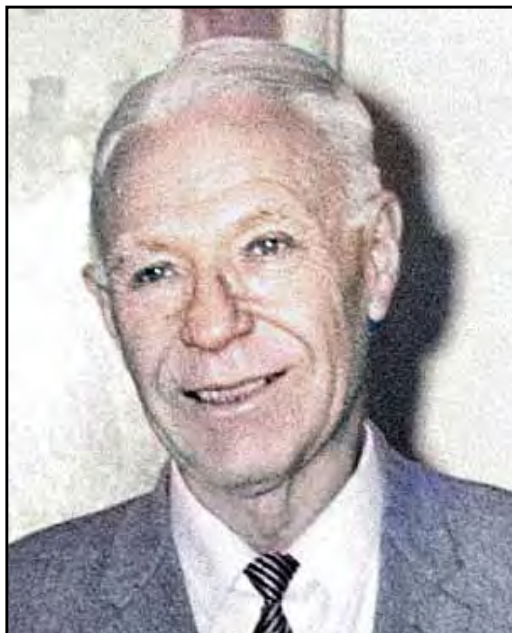
His wife, Bertha Louise, passed away in 1944.



Dr. Samuel J. Mellow on his horse-drawn buggy during 1903.

Dr. George M. Rennie

1898 - 1977



Dr. George M. Rennie

When Dr. George Malcom Rennie, retired from his medical practice due to illness in 1976, he had practiced medicine for half a century, longer than any other doctor in the history of the area. But less than a year after retiring, on Friday, March 18, 1977, Port Perry's favourite "Doc" died at at Community Nursing Home never having recovered from his sickness.

Born on a farm in Wellington County, on September 1, 1898, George was a son for James Andrew and Ellen Hume (Stagg) Rennie. George learned early in life that anything in life worth having had to be worked for, and he never lost sight of that lesson.

George was a product of the "Little Red Schoolhouse", attending elementary school in Crosshill and Wellesley; Secondary School in Listowel and then Queen's University Medical School from which he graduated in 1923.

During his final year at university he sustained a severe back injury when playing football and was forced to finish his studies and final examinations confined to a special bed where he had to remain for 18 months. This was followed by having to wear a body cast for two years.

In spite of his injury, he served as a staff doctor at Homewood Sanitarium in Guelph and at the Oshweken Hospital of the Seven Nations Reserve near Brantford.

In 1928 he joined the partnership of Dr. David Archer and Dr. Alvie Stewart in Port Perry. Two years later Dr. Rennie and Dr. George Jeffrey purchased the Archer's Queen Street, house and clinic. He remained in the community for the rest of his life, practicing from the same location for 48 years.

Dr. Rennie was typical of the ideal family doctor. For almost two years during World War II he was the only doctor in town, but in spite of a staggering work load, he continued to serve the public well, making house calls, doing his surgery and often holding office hours until midnight.

To "Doc", the name by which he was affectionately known, this was just part of the job of being a doctor, and not something to be praised for, or to boast about. He felt uncomfortable if any "fuss" were made of him or of what he did.

When he retired, some of his long-time friends and patients felt that he should be honoured for his nearly half a century service to the community, but he refused to be recognized.

His profession was his whole life. His only hobbies were carpentry and music, and he was most happy when playing his banjo and singing.

Dr. George Malcolm Rennie was laid to rest following a service at McDermott-Panabaker funeral home, in Pine Grove Cemetery. He was survived by his wife Gwen, daughter Marlyn, sons James and Albert.

Dr. Matthew B. Dymond

1906 - 1999



Dr. Matthew B. Dymond

Dr. Matthew Bulloch Dymond, a former Ontario Minister of Health and member of the provincial legislature died at Port Perry Community Nursing Home on February 21, 1996 at 89 years of age.

Son of the late John Richard Dymond and Anna Mary Bowie, he was born in Scotland on Sept. 24, 1906 and emigrated to Canada when he was 15 years of age. He travelled to Canada alone on a ship and joined his sister in Peterborough, where he worked in a grocery store while attending Peterborough Collegiate and took night classes at a local YMCA.

Matthew B. Dymond was married to Phyllis Jeanne (Clifton) in 1930, and the couple had two daughters, Beverley (Livesay) and Nancy Dymond. After marrying, he worked part-time while studying medicine at Queen's University in Kingston.

He received his Doctor of Medicine, from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1941 and he did post-graduate work in Kingston and Toronto before joining the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. During the Second World War, Dr. Dymond joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and served 3.5 years as a battlefield surgeon in England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

In 1946, after the war, he set up general practice in Port Perry, taking advantage of an opportunity provided to him when a doctor in Port Perry was retiring. The retiring doctor offered to loan him the money to get started. He lived most of the rest of his life in a beautiful home on Cochrane Street.

Dr. Dymond started his political career as a Councillor in Port Perry, in 1948, and he later served on the high school board. Dr. Dymond was elected



Dr. Matthew B. Dymond and his wife Jeanne, 1977.

to the provincial legislature as a Progressive Conservative MPP for Ontario riding in 1965, and served that riding until 1967 when his riding was changed by redistribution.

He was appointed Minister of Reform Institutions and Ontario's first Minister of Transportation before becoming Minister of Health in 1958. He served in that capacity for 11 years, retiring in 1969. As Minister of Health, Dr. Dymond supervised the implementation of the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

Following his retirement as Minister of Health in 1969, Dr. Dymond remained a Member of Provincial Parliament until 1975. He then returned to his Port Perry medical practice to continue his studies of cancer and aging and for the next three years served as chair of the Ontario Science Centre.

Dr. Dymond was survived by his wife, the former Phyllis Jeanne Clifton; daughters Beverley Livesay of Peterborough and Nancy Dymond of Toronto, and grandchildren Laurie, Andrea and Catharine Livesay, all of Peterborough.

A service was held for Dr. Dymond was at the Low and Low Funeral Home, Port Perry on February 24, 1996, followed by cremation and interment in Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

His wife, Phyllis Jeanne passed away peacefully at the Community Nursing Home in Port Perry on Monday, March 25, 2002, in her 100th year.



Dr. Matthew B. Dymond and his wife Jeanne were on hand for the official opening and dedication of the Dr. Matthew B. Dytmond Wing of Community Memorial Hospital, Port Perry on June 15, 1984. Seen here with the Dymonds are, back left, The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister of Health and The Hon. Ross Stevenson, M.P.



Dr. Roy Irwin

Dr. Roy S. Irwin

1917 - 2001

Dr. Roy S. Irwin opened a medical office in Port Perry in Dr. Samuel J. Mellow clinic on Queen Street, in 1945.

Dr. Irwin was born in 1917 and practiced from Dr. Mellow's office from 1945 to 1953. This was the declining years of this long-time medical clinic at 239 Queen Street, and Dr. Irwin was the last doctor to practice from his location.

Dr. Irwin and his wife Mavis left Port Perry in 1953 and settled in R.R.2, Oshawa, where he continued his general practice and also served on the staff of Oshawa General Hospital for a number of years, before moving to Port Arthur, Ontario about 1972. Here he became a medical consultant for OHIP in Thunder Bay and Sudbury.

Dr. Roy S. Irwin was 84 when he passed away in Lindsay, Ontario on October 2, 2001. He was survived by his wife Mavis and four children.

Dr. Clinton P. Peterson

1892 - 1968

Dr. Clinton Pitt Peterson came to Port Perry from Saskatchewan in July 1932, and became a partner of Dr. George Rennie at the Port Perry Medical Clinic, on Queen Street, for the next ten years.

Clinton Peterson was born on March 28, 1892 in Centreville, New Brunswick one of six children for his father John Robert, and mother Cerina Martha (Fitzherbert) Peterson. After completing elementary and high school, he attended Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario to become a medical doctor.

While a medical student his studies were interrupted by World War I, enlisting in the army in 1917. After the war he returned to Queen's and graduated in medicine from in 1923. He practiced his profession in Kingston, and Herschel, Saskatchewan before moving to in Port Perry.

It was while practicing in Saskatchewan that he met Alma Mildred Irwin, and they were married in Winnipeg, Manitoba on June 25, 1924. They had two children.

Dr. Peterson came upon Port Perry during a trip to Zeyphr, Ontario, in April 1932. Impressed with the town, and looking for a place to practice, Dr. George Rennie offered him a job and a partnership, which he accepted.

The doctors office was equipped with an x-ray machine and a darkroom in the basement. They also had their own dispensary. They made use of the facilities at the local hospital, on John Street, but major surgery was referred to Oshawa or Toronto.

When World War II broke out, Dr. Peterson once again volunteered his services, and in December 1942 he accepted a position at the Christie Street Veterans Hospital in Toronto, and later at the new Sunnybrook Hospital until 1957. He then became staff physician at the Health Centre, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, retiring in 1963.

Dr. Clinton P. Peterson was 76 years old when he passed away on August 9, 1968 in Toronto, and was buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. His wife, Alma Mildred (Irwin) predeceased him on April 26, 1957.



Dr. Clinton P. Peterson

Dr. Stephen Kandel

Physician



Dr. Stephen Kandel

Dr. Stephen Paul Kandel arrived in Port Perry in December 1953 to take over the practice of Dr. Roy Irwin, but unable to afford to buy Dr. Irwin's house, he moved into the Port Perry Medical Clinic, across the road.

Here he joined the practices of Dr. George Rennie and Dr. Matthew B. Dymond, to provide longer office hours and emergency services to the community.

Dr. Kandel was a graduate of Bucharest University in Hungary, and did his post-graduate work in England and Canada. He came to Canada in 1951 and worked assisting Dr. A.G. Berry in Sunderland for a number of months.

In an interview in September 1970, before he left for Toronto to take up a position at Sunnybrook Hospital, he reminisced about his time in the town.

He said he was leaving Port Perry with mixed emotions. "I'm going to miss this friendly little town. It's been good to me in many ways," he said.

With more than 1,000 families to care for he was kept busy. He says he delivered upwards of 500 babies into the world and extracted about 300 tonsils during his 17 years in town.

Dr. Kandel and his wife Pamela had two daughters, Linda and Stephanie, who was born in Port Perry. As much as he enjoyed aspects of living in Port Perry, he admitted he is "basically a city man" and prefers to be a "small fish in a big pond".

At 50 years of age, Dr. Kandel was in excellent health and he said he could only remember three days during his 17 years in Port Perry that he missed coming to work because of sickness.

Ironically the doctor was not a proponent of exercise and he enjoyed smoking. "Exercising is not good for people who are not used to exercises," he said as it puffed on a cigarette during the interview. "There are people who exercise who shouldn't and if you don't keep it up, its worse than if you ever started".

Regarding smoking, he says he was against it, but was not able to stop. "This made it difficult when I advised a patient to quite," he said.

Dr. Kandel said he was looking forward to the social life of the city. A casual dresser, even at work, he and his wife enjoyed opera and live theatre, as well as playing bridge.

He felt the local hospital was a "tremendous thing" for a community the size of Port Perry and he had great admiration for the Board of Directors who he said operated the institution each year without a deficit.

When Dr. Kandel left Port Perry in November 1970 for Sunnybrook Hospital, he became an Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine.

Dr. Stephen Kandel passed away on February 22, 2013 at Credit Valley Hospital, Toronto.

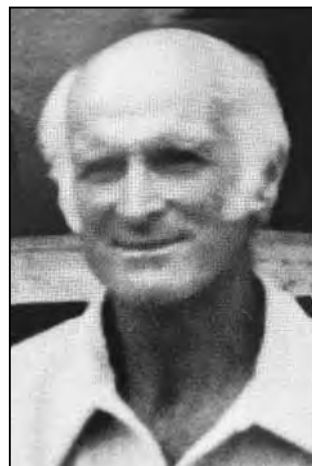
Dr. John Diamond

John Diamond was born on July 8, 1923 in Glasgow, Scotland to Gerald and Ethel Diamond. After receiving a medical degree from the University of Glasgow and fulfilling an internship in Leicester, England, he moved to Canada in 1956.

He practiced for a short time at a clinic in West Hill, Ontario before visiting Port Perry on the advice of a friend. He was very impressed with the town, the hospital and the small town feel, and was hired at the Port Perry Medical Centre in 1957, to assist at the clinic following the retirement of Dr. Matthew B. Dymond.

The young physician was always available for his patients and was in many ways ahead of his time in his practice. On one occasion he is said to have brought a man dressed in operating room greens and mask to watch the delivery of a baby. He told the nurses it was "Dr. Smiley, father of Obstetrics. It turned out it was the father of the the new infant, and Dr. Diamond was severley reprimanded for the act, which was 20 years ahead of its time.

Dr. John Diamond left Port Perry in 1970 and moved to Whitby, Ontario where he accepted a position on the staff of the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital, specializing in psychogeriatrics. He remained there until he retired. Dr. John "Jack" Diamond passed away in his home on Friday, June 27, 2008 in Whitby.



Dr. John Diamond

Dr. William Beer

In 1968, the application of Dr. William Beer to become a member of the medical staff of Community Memorial Hospital was accepted. This young English doctor had come to Canada for post-graduate courses, and thus made his home base a Burketon, Ontario, where regular trains could take him to the University of Toronto.

From 1968, until he took over Dr. John Diamond's practice in 1970, he helped part-time at the Port Perry Medical Clinic, mostly in the evening.

Dr. Beer was much appreciated and well known by many residents in the Blackstock area because he made house calls en-route from his home in Burketon to the Port Perry Medical Clinic, or the hospital.

In 1974 he left the clinic after a holiday in England, setting up his new practice in Keene, Ontario.

Dr. Michael Tanna

Dr. Michael Tanna, of East Indian descent, had received his education in England. He took over duties at the Port Perry Clinic after Dr. Wm. Beer left in 1974.

When he arrived at the Port Perry Clinic there were three doctors. Dr. George Rennie, Dr. Thomas Millar and Dr. Russell Martin. Dr. Rennie retired in 1975.

Dr. Tanna contined Dr. Beers practice of making house calls in Blackstock. The hours were long at the Port Perry Medical Clinic, and it was difficult to get relief, so in 1976, Dr. Martin and Dr. Tanna left the clinic and joined the new Medical Associates of Port Perry group.



Dr. Michael Tanna

Information about the physicians who worked at the Port Perry Medical Clinic is courtesy of the authors of Stitches in Time, a History of the Growth of Community Memorial Hospital.

Dr. S. Russell Martin Physician

Dr. Scott Russell Martin was born on February 11, 1938 in Ellon Aberdeenshire, Scotland, a son for Dr. and Mrs. J. Ramsay Martin. He has a twin brother who still lives in Scotland.

Dr. Martin received his medical and surgery degree from the University of Aberdeen and interned at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Following his graduation, he became a Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force, stationed in the Middle East. He received a citation from Queen Elizabeth for his bravery during the "Six-Day War" between Israel and Palestine Arabs in June 1967, for going behind enemy lines to rescue a wounded soldier.

In November 1970 he immigrated to Canada, to assume the medical practice of Dr. Stephen Kandel of Port Perry, at the Medical Clinic. He purchased Dr. Matthew B. Dymond's share of the Medical Clinic building on Queen Street, in 1972.

Dr. Tanna and Millar left the downtown clinic in May 1976 and joined the Medical Associates group, leaving Dr. Martin as the only doctor left at Port Perry Medical Centre.

Dr. Martin and his first wife Valerie had three children, before separating. He met his second wife, Susan Schwan when she was working in Emergency Room at Port Perry hospital. A single mom with two boys, Sue and Russ were married at the Anglican Church in Port Perry on July 30, 1977.

Dr. Martin was a tireless worker, who continued the tradition of house calls at all hours of the day or night. He was very caring and respected by both his colleagues and patients.

He and his wife Susan lived in a beautiful home on Scugog Island, overlooking Lake Scugog. Here they raised five children, Zoe, Amanda, Zanche, David and Mark.

Tragically, Dr. Scott Russell Martin lost his life when he was only 41 years old. He was a victim of a head-on collision just west of Utica, Ontario on September 23, 1979.

After Dr. Martin's death, his wife Susan tried to keep the Clinic open by hiring locums. One of these was Dr. Guntis Silins who stayed for two years, before joining Medical Associates.

Unable to keep the original Port Perry Medical Centre operating, it finally closed in May 1982.

A private service was held for Dr. Russell Martin at the McDermott-Panabaker Funeral Home on September 26.



Dr. Russell Martin



Dr. Martin practiced medicine at the Port Perry Medical Centre building at 238 Queen St. until his death in September 1979.



Dr. Tom Millar

Dr. Thomas Miller Physician

Dr. Thomas Millar began his local medical practice in Port Perry on April 1, 1972 at the Port Perry Medical Centre, taking over Dr. Matthew B. Dymond’s patients.

For Dr. Millar, accompanied by his wife Catherine, it took just one look at the medical facilities at Port Perry Community Hospital for him to make his mind to give up what he called a “successful general practice” in Larkhall, Scotland to come to Canada to practice medicine in Port Perry.

They returned to Scotland after making the decision, just long enough to tie up the loose ends, before returning to Canada on March 17, 1972, to prepare for his new venture.

Dr. Millar graduated from Glasgow University Medical School and for six months did general surgery at law Hospital in Carluke, Lanarkshire. He then worked with the cardiology unit of the Glasgow Hospital before going into general practice in Larkhall in 1969.

One of the biggest differences he found, between Canada and Scotland, is that he had little contact with patients in a hospital back home, where here he got involved with patients at the

hospital, allowing for medicine to be practiced on a personal level.

“There is no way a town this size in Scotland would have anything similar, and doctors in the United Kingdom are fighting for smaller, better equipped hospitals,” he said.

Dr. Tom practiced at the Port Perry Medical Centre until May 1976, when he left, and joined the Medical Associates group of doctors, bringing with him his huge practice. He remained there until 1996, when disillusioned with the government cutbacks and meddling, he moved north and opened his own private practice in Sunderland, Ontario.

After a number of years in Sunderland, he and his wife moved to Peterborough where he practices at the Brookdale Family Clinic to this day (2022).

When not practicing medicine, Dr. Millar’s interests are motor cars and music. Before starting medical studies he had studied to be a professional pianist. And both he and Catherine also take an interest in live theatre.

Once settled in Port Perry, it didn’t take long for the Millars to become involved in the local theatre scene, helping produce and entertain with the Scugog Choral Society. In fact, when the Choral Society’s director, Grace Hastings retired, Tom took over as the group’s new director for about 10 years.

In 1990 he resigned from the Scugog Choral Society so he could devote more time to the “Millar Lights”, a children’s theatrical group he founded with his wife Catherine.

Dr. Tom, his wife Catherine received Canada’s Lescarbot Award in 1992, for their contribution to their cultural and arts community.



Dr. Tom Millar and his wife Catherine at the Port Perry Medical Centre in April, 1972.

The New 'Docs'

The Clinic & The Doctors



The creation of Medical Associates

Written by Dr. Ralph Price
Published in "Stitches In Time" in 1994

The 1965 graduating class in medicine from the University of Toronto has become very well represented in Port Perry. **Drs. William Cohoon, Ralph Price, and Robert Allin** were all classmates, and all interned together.

After a one year rotating internship at the Toronto Western Hospital, Dr. Allin went to British Columbia for a year of medicine; Dr. Cohoon entered the cardiovascular surgery programme at the Toronto Western Hospital; Dr. Price went to Brooklin to work with Drs. Baldwin, Grant and Stocks. This was to be a one year stay, but once exposed to the life of a General Practitioner, he dismissed thoughts of returning to Toronto for further study.

When the Brooklin Clinic required yet another doctor for their practice, Dr. Price wrote to Dr. Allin, suggesting that he consider joining him there, which he did in 1967. While working out of the Brooklin Medical Centre, the large number of patients from the Port Perry and Bowmanville areas did not go unnoticed, as Dr. Price will explain in his own words.

At a party in June 1965, Dr. Bill Cohoon confessed that he was rather fed up with the programme of cardiovascular surgery; in fact, it would be another seven or eight years before he would actually be seeing private patients. He wondered about doing family practice.

I told him of the large numbers of patients I had been seeing from Port Perry and Bowmanville and suggested that we consider either area. Seeing this as a good idea, he checked out both areas and decided, probably for agricultural reasons, that Port Perry could certainly handle a couple more physicians. By this time, I had been asked by a number of Port Perry citizens to consider coming here to practice. The chief among them were Rev. Philip Romeril and Sam Oyler.



Dr. Ralph Price



Dr. Bill Cohoon



The Medical Associates building in November 1998.



The Medical Associates building in 1998. Community Memorial Hospital is in background at far left of picture.expand

We began negotiating in Port Perry with a small group of prominent and concerned citizens. These meetings were clandestine in nature, the locals not wanting to appear ungrateful to the over-worked physicians already in Port Perry. As a matter of fact, Port Perry was at that time a designated “Medically Underserved Area”.

Dr. Cohoon and I decided to start practising in Port Perry. He would start in September 1968, practising from the Cohoon house on North Street. I would give notice in Brooklin and join full-time in January 1969. In the meantime, I would give him coverage for his time off.

We were lucky enough to secure an option on the property directly across from the new hospital on upper Paxton Street. By Christmas 1968, my family and I settled into a small frame house on Lilla Street, almost kitty-corner from Dr. Cohoon’s house. We developed a rather primitive office set up in Dr. Cohoon’s front room. The front hall and stairs were the waiting room, and an east bedroom at the top of the stairs was my office. Realizing the inadequacy of this situation, we had an architect draw up plans for a clinic on our Paxton Street property.

Practice on North Street was not without its amusing side. Some days, early on, we shared the money earned, perhaps from an allergy shot. It seemed that all those who had asked us to come to Port Perry were still going to Brooklin. Other days, all the chairs in the hallway would be full and people crowded up the staircase.

Julie, the Cohoon’s large, loud, harmless Labrador retriever, was ever waiting to bound out into the hallway, barking and leaping, as patients scrambled to relative safety. Julie was definitely not our receptionist—just enthusiastically friendly.

Our new practices were obviously growing, and we were wishing our own clinic would be finished. By great coincidence, it opened the April 1969, the same month as the new hospital. We were immediately too busy and began to lean on Dr. Bob Allin for emergency anaesthesia. He was still in Brooklin, but had been on the Medical Staff of Community Memorial Hospital since 1967.

Really, the story of the growth of the Medical Associates parallels the growth of the new hospital. After observing our burgeoning medical practice with the opening of the new Clinic, **Dr. Robert Allin** joined us in August 1969. He and his family had hardly settled in on Bigelow Street when it became apparent that we would require more “doctor-power.”

In early 1970, we made contact with **Dr. John Hammett**, a fraternity brother of mine and Bill Cohoon’s; he was interviewed and accepted. He and his wife, Elaine, moved to Union Avenue, so now there were four of us and a dentist, Dr. Dale Lague, practising out of 462 Paxton Street.

Dr. Hammett had a large practice of faithful patients until 1984, when he moved to Kenora to take up the position of Medical Officer of Health.

By the time 1970 turned into 1971, our once huge building was comfortably



Dr. Robert Allin



Dr. John Hammett



Dr. John Stewart

full, and the practice was growing. Patients came from Ajax, Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa, Bowmanville, north through Pontypool to Lindsay, west to Beaverton, further west and south to Uxbridge and Scarborough. Many a Scarborough couple who vacationed on Lake Scugog considered Port Perry their medical home, and the half hour drive never seemed to deter them.

We were very busy and looking hard for more help. We were getting replies, but nobody seemed to think the practice needed another doctor. It didn't; it needed many more doctors. Through a friend of another fraternity brother, we learned of a fellow doing emergency practice in Kitchener and Waterloo. He came from a long line of Peterborough doctors.

Dr. John Stewart, University of Western Ontario, Class of 1972, came with his wife, Barbara, in January 1975. They bought a house on Scugog Street, and John, just like the rest of us, was immediately overwhelmed medically.

Our next additions came from within the town of Port Perry itself. In May 1976, **Dr. Michael Tanna** and **Dr. Tom Millar** joined us at Medical Associates across from the hospital. They brought huge practices with them, and we were definitely becoming overcrowded.

This condition was alleviated to a degree by our first addition to the south. It gave us more room for doctors, staff, and patients, and allowed us to locate a pharmacy and diagnostic blood collection station in the building.

Not long after this, **Dr. Michael Krempowich**, a 1971 Queens graduate, he of the military bearing, joined the group. This was almost immediately after a stint as a doctor with the Airborne. Mike was looking for a small rural town, not too far from Toronto, and I guess we were that. He had also the added attractiveness of anaesthesia training and could spell off Dr. Bob Allin.

Dr. Krempowich developed an excellent practice and was living on Scugog Island with his wife, Valerie, and two small children when he died in the spring of 1993. It was a sad day for the practice of medicine in Port Perry.

Meanwhile, downtown at the Port Perry Medical Clinic on Queen Street, **Dr. Guntis Silins**, of Toronto arrived in February 1980. He assumed the practice of Dr. Russell Martin following his tragic death in a car accident. Dr. Silins remained at the downtown clinic for two years before joining Medical Associates in 1982. He left Port Perry and returned to Toronto in 1989.

McMaster University graduate **Dr. Allan Eix** and his wife, Peggy, came to town in 1981. A personable, well-liked doctor, he changed careers in 1988 when he moved to Ottawa and joined the Canadian Medical Protective Association, becoming a Physician Risk Manager until he retired in 2013.

Needless to say, the anecdotal material that could be written about Medical Associates and Community Memorial Hospital would fill books, very interesting books, but then there is always confidentiality!

A short six year sojourn in Port Perry by **Dr. Michael Monahan** and his wife, Janine, from May 1986 to May 1991 sort of shocked us all. He was an excellent, well-liked doctor, who felt the call from home to a solo practice in Kingston.

In 1984, out of Wawa, the land of the wild goose, came **Dr. Paul Puckrin**, his wife, Karen, and family. Tall, bearded, he says he came home. I think that, literally, he did. He has a huge family practice, mostly



Dr. Tom Millar



Dr. Michael Monahan



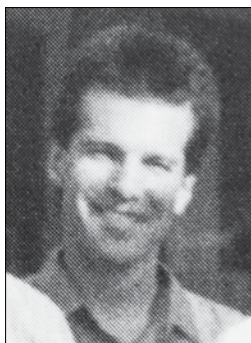
Dr. Guntis Silins



Dr. Paul Puckrin



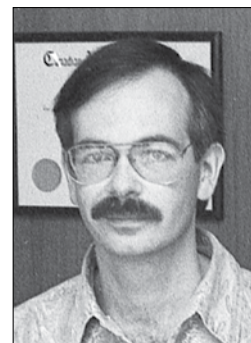
Dr. Gordon Jones



Dr. Dan Obedkoffto



Dr. James Tuck



Dr. Kevin Smith

related in some way to the Puckrin family. He's really a truck-driving biker who runs a monumental practice on the side.

Dr. Gordon Jones came from our most eastern province. He is a 1976 graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland. After practising on the rock for some years, he arrived in 1987 with his wife, Allyne, and family in tow. His first comment was, "This is better weather!"

In 1987, realizing that we were either going to have to expand our building or close our practices, we opted for a large two-storey addition, again further to the south. Dr. Cohoon, whip or shovel in hand, oversaw this construction (as he had all the others), and by January 1988, we again had more room than doctors – the first time since Dr. Stewart joined us in 1975.

Before the building was finished, we reached to our far west and succeeded in enticing **Dr. Dan Obedkoffto** join us. He and his wife, Corine, purchased a home on the Island. His chief reason for coming to Port Perry was his enjoyment of his time here as a University of Toronto family practice resident (a programme with which both Dr. Cohoon and Dr. Allin are associated). Daniel graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1985.

In February of 1989, **Dr. Gordon Mercer**, of Mount Albert, a 1985 Queen's University graduate, was attracted, as was his wife, Cathy Payne-Mercer, to the pretty lakeside town of Port Perry.

A 1988 graduate of the University of Toronto, **Dr. Michael Gilmour**, after doing his family practice residence, some of it here in Port Perry, elected to join Medical Associates in 1990. He and his wife, Janice, and family purchased a home at Castle Harbour.

A close friend of Dr. Gilmour's, Dr. Anthony Brown, a graduate in medicine from the University of Western Ontario, 1988, also was searching for a small town just like Port Perry. He found it. At this juncture, 1993, he is going to return to a university hospital for a one year anaesthetic programme.

Again from Newfoundland, **Dr. James Tuck**, a 1990 graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland, came to Port Perry in 1991. He and his wife, Bronwyn, also live on the Island.

Early in July of 1993, four new physicians joined the practice: **Dr. Kevin Smith**, **Dr. Neil McAllister** and **Drs. Elizabeth and Stephen Russell**. Dr. Smith, originally from Oakville, graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1985. After an internship at Dalhousie in Halifax, he practised six years at St. George, New Brunswick. With the closure of the hospital there, he decided to return to Ontario. After looking over other situations in Ontario, he chose Port Perry.

*Excerpt from Stitches In Time
Published in 1994 by
Community Memorial Hospital*



Dr. Neil McAllister
(courtesy staff member)



Dr. Elizabeth Russell



Dr. Steve Russell

Medical Associates Today



The Medical Associates building on Paxton Street, Port Perry, summer 2018.

Medical Associates of Port Perry building underwent an extensive \$6 million addition and renovation during 2011-2012 with it officially opening in 2013. The massive expansion raised the medical facility from 37,000 sq. ft. to 62,000 sq. ft.

The three story structure, plus lower level are all colour-coded to help patients and visitors to the building easily access doctors offices or other services provided in the clinic. It also features a large, brightly lit lobby with a food and refreshment counter, and equipped with tables, chairs, tv and couches.

The medical facility was opened by Medical Associates founders, Drs. William Cohoon, Dr. Ralph Price and Robert Allin in 1968.

The building has experienced four additions since it opened, being in 1977, 1988, 2000, and most recently in 2011-2013. Medical Associates of Port Perry and North Durham Family Health Team are home to 33 family physicians, four general surgeons, two general internists, one social worker, one nurse practitioner, two chiropractors, two pharmacists, two registered dietitians, and more than 10 registered nurses.

In addition, the Medical Associates Building is home to a comprehensive physiotherapy practice, an optometrist, an Audiology practice, a full service dental practice, a state of the art diagnostic imaging centre, a laboratory/bleeding station, and a retail pharmacy, all of whom are dedicated to providing quality health care for our



North side of Medical Associates Building with entrance into building

community and surrounding area.

The physicians utilize an Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system, which provides for electronic charts and schedules. The clinic has high speed internet access and recently added wireless throughout the building for public use. At the time of the addition our phone system was upgraded and incorporates the latest technology.

At the time of construction in 2013, the Medical Associates doctors were caring for more than 30,000 patients from Scugog, Durham Region and points north, providing more than a quarter of a million patient visits each year.



North side of Medical Associates Building, looking west towards parking lot.



The Docs'

DR. RALPH M. PRICE

Ralph Morton Price was born in Montreal, Quebec, on November 25, 1939, the son of Clarence and Laurene (Walker) Price. Ralph attended to Grade 7 in Montreal before the family moved to Barrie, Ontario where he finished his elementary classes and attended Barrie Central Collegiate Institute.

After graduating from the medical program at the University of Toronto in 1965, he spent a year in British Columbia. When he returned to Ontario, he joined Dr. Guthrie Grant at the Brooklin Clinic, in Brooklin, Ontario.

Ralph met his future wife, Muriel Patricia Hoare when he tutored her in chemistry, as a high school student. They were married in Barrie, Ontario on January 31, 1964. Their first home was in Toronto while Ralph was interning at Toronto Western Hospital.

In 1968, Dr. Price moved to Port Perry where he practiced with his former medical school colleague, Dr. William Cohoon. The two doctors worked out of rooms on the first floor of the Cohoon home on North Street, often with people lining the stairs waiting for appointments.

In 1968, the young doctors purchased a piece of property across from Community Memorial Hospital on Paxton Street, and constructed a new medical clinic. They opened Medical



Dr. Ralph M. Price



Patricia and Dr. Ralph Price

Associates in this building in January 1969 and it grew into a large private practice, attracting new graduating doctors. Dr. Price worked from this site until 1997 when he left Medical Associates and set up his own practice at 13920 Old Scugog Road., Blackstock, Ontario. Here he provided health care to his patients at this location until his death.

Ralph and Patricia lived in a century home on Simcoe St., in the heart of Port Perry before purchasing the historic Christie home in Manchester in 1977. Beside the home they constructed a large antique shop, which was also a place for them to display and store their vast collection of folk art. It was here they lived and raised their family of three children, Kimberley, Matthew and Taylor until Ralph passed away in 2006.

Ralph brought a great passion to all aspects of his life, to his family, to the hundreds of patients in his medical practice. He and his wife Pat had a special passion for history and for the art, furnishings, and artifacts of early Canada. They were founding members of the National Museum of Man in 1982; held shows for their collection of hundreds of folk art treasures at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa and the Mira Godard Gallery in Toronto. They provided about 300 pieces of their collection for

a travelling exhibit called 'Twas Ever Thus in 1978.

Ralph was also an advice reader and book collector, having accumulated more than 19,000 books on local histories, biographies, and first editions.

Dr. Price was also heavily involved in the community and was instrumental in helping save the old Port Perry town hall. He was named co-chair of the Town Hall 1873 committee to save the town hall from demolition. He also enjoyed theatre and performed with the Borelians Theatre Group during the late 1980s and 1990s; was a talented sketch artist, an avid tennis player and took part in numerous community events including Canoe the Nonquon and Big Brother's Bed Races.

In April 1999, Dr. Price was given the honour of laying the time capsule for the new Stephen B. Roman wing of the Community Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Ralph Price died on Saturday, September 16, 2006 at the Lakeridge Health Centre in Bowmanville, at age 66. Left to mourn his loss were his wife Patricia (nee Hoare), daughter Kim and sons Taylor and Matthew.

A Service to celebrate his life was held at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Port Perry on Saturday, September 23, Dr. Price was laid to rest at a private interment Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.



Dr. Ralph Price, with a piece of their collection of "folk art" at a show in October, 1992.



In 1968, Ralph and Patricia Price bought the home at 15398 Simcoe Street, Port Perry. The Prices set about restoring the home and constructing a 1,000 square foot addition at the rear. This addition contained a large family room, a guest room and a laundry room.

The original part of the house is a typical 1870s storey-and-a-half structure with a generous verandah stretching the full width of the building. Above the verandah is a gable with a gothic window.

In 1977 the Prices sold their home and moved to an even older home, the Christie house near Manchester, where Pat had her antique store.



Dr. Ralph Price and Patricia moved into the old Christie homestead in 1977. The Prices restored the home and added a new back kitchen and west wing to the home. Both additions were carefully designed and built to conform to the original architectural themes.

The winter kitchen in the main house, with its cooking fireplace with cranes and and irons has been preserved over the years.

The Price's enthusiasm for antiques enabled them to fill the home with correct and authentic furnishings, allowing visitors to experience the atmosphere enjoyed by its first owners.



The Docs'

DR. WILLIAM J. COHOON



Dr. Bill Cohoon, 1972

engaged on Valentine's Day, 1967 and married on June 23, 1967.

During his second year at Western University, Bill learned from Dr. Ralph Price about great opportunity in Port Perry who had just constructed a new hospital and were offering financial support to recruit young doctors to move to the community. Local resident and businessman Ted Griffen was a major supporter of this community drive, and took Bill and Whitney for a sight seeing flight over Port Perry and Lake Scugog. It was during this flight he told the young doctor he would not land the plane until he committed to come to town.

Bill and Whitney moved to Port Perry in September 1968, opening his first office as a family doctor in the front room of the home they purchased on North Street. It was here they began both his medical practice and their family, being blessed with five children over the next six years.

He and his colleague, Dr. Ralph Price, turned sod for a new medical facility and their Medical Associates building officially opened in January 1969, across Paxton Street from the new Community Memorial Hospital.

Had William Cohoon's grandfather and family been successful in purchasing tickets on the S.S. Titanic in 1912, there would never have been a Cohoon family in Canada.

But they were unable to get tickets – so it was six years later when Bill's Irish father, William James boarded a ship to come to Canada. His mother Edith Margaret Isabella Stewart arrived in Canada in 1920 and they met years later near Toronto and were married in 1926.

"Bill" was the youngest of four children, two boys and two girls, born on October 9, 1939 at Long Branch in the west end of Toronto, where his parents farmed, and owned a small market garden. He attended public and high school in Port Credit, before the family moved to Georgetown in 1955, where he finished high school.

After completing high school, he attended McMaster University and the University of Toronto where he graduated as a medical degree in 1965. He then interned at the Toronto Western Hospital in the cardiovascular fellowship program.

It was at Western he met his future wife, Whitney Laird, who was a teacher of surgical technique and a research assistant. They were



Whitney and Dr. Bill Cohoon in their new home on North Street, Port Perry in 1968.

Having been raised on a farm, in 1975 Bill and Whitney purchased a farm property on Whitfield Road, just north of Port Perry, returning him to his farming roots. It was here they built their new home, which they continue to live.

In addition to his busy life as a physician, surgeon and farmer, Bill also took a keen interest in politics and his community. He served as a director and president of the Chamber of Commerce; was a long-time member and past president of the Port Perry Agricultural Society; served on the Community Memorial Hospital Board as the Chief of Staff, and after retiring from active practice, he became a member of the Durham Region Hospital Board. For his dedication and contributions to the community, he was named to the Mayor's Honour Roll in 2008 and also selected as the Scugog's Citizen of the Year.

After more than 30 years as a Port Perry physician and surgeon, Dr. Bill Cohoon retired in September 2002, to enjoy more time working on the farm. His great satisfaction, outside his professional career, comes from his wife Whitney, and their five children and 18 grandchildren.

Dr. William Cohoon

Physician, Surgeon

Port Perry is extremely fortunate, as it has one of the finest medical communities in the country. This has not always been the case, for there was a time, prior to the construction of the Medical Associates building, when there were only three physicians to service the needs of the entire community.

It was time for change and two men stepped up to the plate - Dr. Bill Cohoon and his partner Dr. Ralph Price.

Bill, as he is most commonly known, has been extremely influential force in health care in this community and is responsible for helping to bring us much of the excellent care we enjoy today.

Born in Long Branch, in Toronto's west end, Bill was the son of a farming family. When Toronto began to grow the Cohoons decided to move and Bill's father purchased a farm near Georgetown, where Bill attended high school.

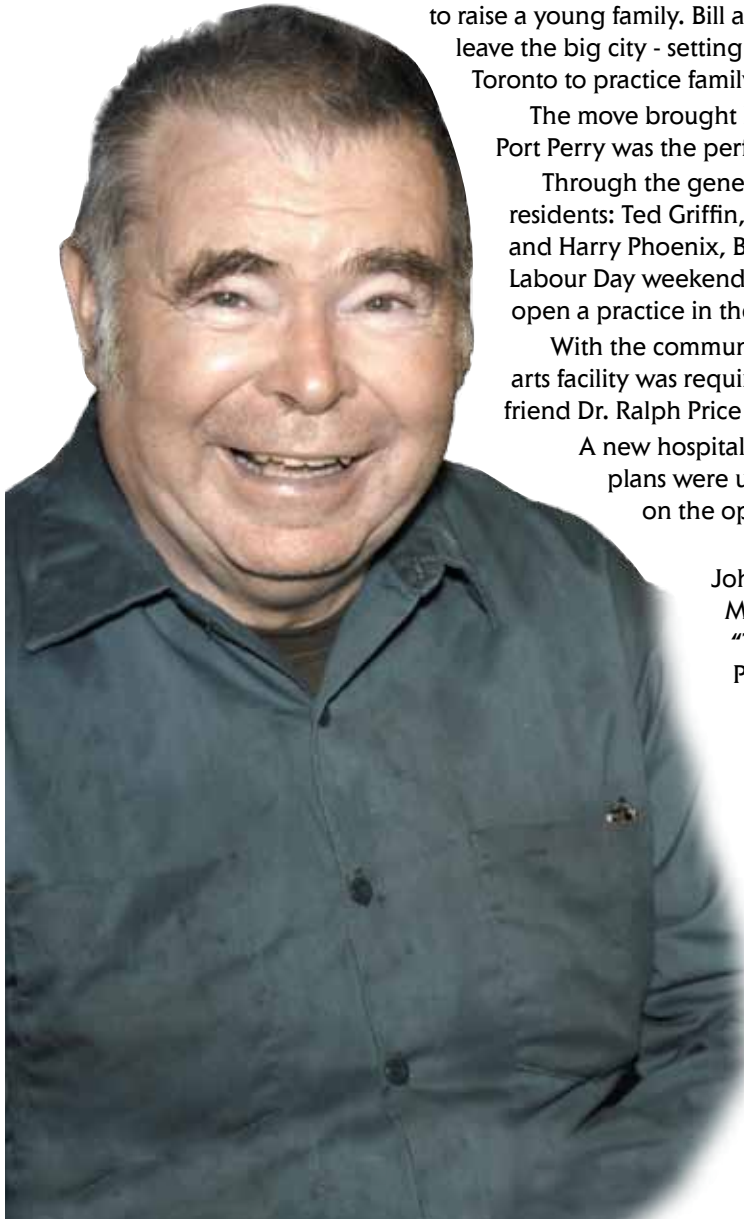
Farming was not the chosen life for young Bill, who had a keen interest in physics and chemistry and wanted to spend his life working in research. He decided to attend McMaster University in Hamilton in that field, then switched to medicine at the University of Toronto.

Bill joined the cardiovascular team and became an intern at Toronto Western. It was during that time he met a nurse, who was teaching residents surgical technique and procedures. Not only was Bill fascinated by the subject, but he also took an interest in the teacher and in 1967 Bill and Whitney were married.

Bill's chosen career was not without difficulty. In fact, when he was working in excess of 90 hours a week, he determined this was no way



Dr. Ralph Price and Dr. Bill Cohoon at the sod turning for their new Medical Clinic on Paxton Street, on October 28, 1968. The new clinic will be large enough to accommodate four doctors and a dentist, with Drs. Cohoon and Price being the first to occupy the building. The contract to build the clinic was awarded to Lake Scugog Lumber.



Dr. William "Bill" Cohoon, 2009.

to raise a young family. Bill and Whitney decided to pack up and leave the big city - setting their sights on a small town, northeast of Toronto to practice family medicine.

The move brought Bill back to the country and it seemed Port Perry was the perfect place to plant roots.

Through the generosity of several prominent Port Perry residents: Ted Griffin, Joe Aldred, Storey Beare, Joe Dowson and Harry Phoenix, Bill was recruited to practice in Port Perry. Labour Day weekend of 1968, Bill and Whitney were able to open a practice in the front of their North Street home.

With the community growing it was decided that a medical arts facility was required, so Bill partnered with long-time friend Dr. Ralph Price to form Medical Associates of Port Perry.

A new hospital for the town was almost completed and plans were underway for the building of a new clinic on the opposite side of Paxton St.

At that time Drs. Stephen Kandel, Dr. John Diamond, Dr. George Rennie and Dr. Matthew B. Dymond were operating out of "The Medical Clinic" in the building Port Perry Dental Centre is located today.

"I remember calling Bob Allin and telling him to come up here and work," Bill said, as he reminisced.

"Bob was worried that there would not be enough work." He chuckled as he spoke. Bob came up in 1969 and together with Ralph Price, the Port Perry Medical Associates was founded.

In the first few years 16 hour days were quite normal. Whitney was the only nurse, but it all seemed to work. "The beginning was tough. We went four months straight without a day off."

"Those early days were fun," Bill recalled. He smiled as he relayed the story of a puppy, Julie, they had just adopted and decided to have her spayed. "This was

something we would routinely do in the surgical lab."

Bill saw no reason to spend money and take up a vet's time so he called his partner Bob and asked him to come over to help perform the minor surgery on the family pet.

"We had no idea how much anaesthesia to give her so we started low and increased gradually." "Suddenly," he explained, "the anaesthetic was too much and the dog stopped breathing.

And when Bill realized they would have to resuscitate her, Dr. Bob Allin replied, "She's your dog, I'm not giving her mouth to mouth."

Well, Bill did perform mouth to nose resuscitation and the dog regained consciousness. They rushed her to the veterinarian and Julie lived to a grand old age of 15.

"Those were fun days," Bill said, as his mind drifted back in time.

One of the many achievements of which Bill is proud of was the mentoring program, which he began in 1972. It was the same year Bill and Whitney purchased a farm just outside of Port Perry.

The program, known as Rural Family Physician Education and still is, operated by the U of T and was designed to give medical students experience and training as rural family physicians.

The program was extremely successful, largely due to Bill devoting 100 percent of his time to it. Three or four students would shadow the local doctors and 'learn the ropes'. "They would learn things you could never get in a classroom," Bill explained.

Many of the residents who trained in Port Perry decided to stay in Scugog when they completed their studies. Drs. Gilmour, Tony Brown, Sue Shepherd, Amita Dayal, Merrilee Brown, Mark Adams, Nancy Kazarian, Kim Ferguson, Martin Stewart, Fahim Ali, Kerri Best, Ankelly Armstrong and Rocco Lombardi are all enjoying successful careers in the area. Many others have practices in other areas of Durham.

Aside from his love for farming, Bill has worked tirelessly for the community. He served as a director and president of the Scugog Chamber of Commerce, has been a long time member and past president of the Port Perry Agricultural Society and volunteered his time as co-chair of the Lighting the Way fundraising campaign for the hospital.

Along with co-chair Doug Brown, Bill and the committee raised more than four million dollars for the Port Perry hospital. "I had raised money in the past, but nothing more than a few hundred dollars," Bill explained. "This was a whole new ball game." Suddenly I found myself in front of councillors, CEO's of large companies and Presidents of huge organization such as Baagwating Community Association.

And just last year Bill was honoured by being named to the Mayor's Honour Roll.

Now in his retirement, he enjoys time with his five children and 16 grandchildren. At his last birthday he told all the grandchildren they could give him a haircut, something only Whitney was ever able to do properly in the past. The kids went to town and Bill ended up with an extremely fashionable brush cut.

Retired life on the farm is good, although he gets up every morning at 6 a.m. and along with his son successfully works the farm.

There are very few residents of Port Perry who are not familiar with Dr. Bill Cohoon or his achievements.

*By Jonathan Van Bilsen
Reprinted with permission,
February 2010 issue, Focus on Scugog*



Dr. Bill Cohoon, 2009.



The Docs'

DR. ROBERT C. ALLIN

Robert "Bob" Clare Allin was born into a farming family on September 15, 1940, at Bowmanville. He is the son of Clare Edgar and Alice Vera (Power) Allin, who operated a successful dairy and fruit farm in Darlington Township.

As a young man, Bob attended Providence Public School and High School near Bowmanville. After completing high school he attended the University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine, graduating in 1965.

Graduating from medical school, Bob interned at Toronto Western Hospital before accepting a residency at UBC, in Vancouver. It wasn't long before he returned to Ontario, joining a medical group in Brooklin, where he opened a family practice for two years.

Robert met his future wife, Leslie Joan (Watchorn), of Australia, while working at Western Hospital. They were married on February 16, 1968 in Kingston, Tasmania, Australia, and during their life together raised two children, Meredith Anita and Suzanne Clare.

Bob partnered with two colleagues, Drs. Bill Cohoon and Ralph Price in 1969, building and opening a new medical clinic in Port Perry under the name, Medical Associates. He practiced medicine at this clinic for his entire career, from 1969 to 2017, when he finally retired. It was at Medical Associates he expanded his family practice, and diversified his career, returning to school to become an anaesthesiologist. He was also appointed Coroner for the Province of Ontario, a post he held for 44 years.

Aside from his busy medical practice, Bob's other interest was community service. He was a charter member of the Port Perry Rotary Club of which he is a lifetime member. He also served as a director of the Scugog Chamber of Commerce, and Chief of Staff of Community Memorial Hospital, which became Lakeridge Health, Port Perry after the name was changed in the 1990s.

For all his time spent serving the residents of Scugog Township and surrounding areas, Bob was honoured, being presented with the "Longest Serving Physician Award" from Lakeridge Health Corporation in 2010. He was also named Scugog Township's "Citizen of the Year" in 2004.



Dr. Robert Allin, 1992.

Dr. Robert C. Allin

Physician, Coroner

A beaming smile tells a tale where words might fail: Bob Allin knows he's blessed.

At 69, he finds himself surrounded by loving family – expanded now to include three grandchildren (whose mention brings an inevitable twinkle to grandpa's eye) – as well as his wife, Lesley, and two grown daughters. He's woven himself deeply into the community fabric of Port Perry through years of service as a physician and Rotarian. And his wise choice of vocation is underlined by that smile, which forms again as he describes the professional fulfillment he continues to feel strongly at an age when many others would opt for retirement.

"Originally, I thought I'd retire at 60," he laughs. "But the last few years have been especially satisfying, and I work with great people at the clinic and the hospital."

"Family physician" may be Bob's most commonly recognized title, but medically speaking, far from his only portfolio. With responsibilities as an anesthesiologist, coroner, and teacher, Bob Allin maintains a rigorous work schedule.

The road to a medical career began beyond our town: it ran from a farm near rural Bowmanville, made a brief detour into Western Canada and a short stop in another Ontario community.

Choosing not to follow in his father's farming footsteps, Bob gravitated instead to a professional path where he could capitalize on his strength in high school sciences.

Bob's initial posting, after completing his internship, was in Vancouver. But, he soon discovered, there was too much of the small-town boy in the young doctor. Brooklin – much closer to family and reminiscent of his hometown – beckoned.

This more satisfying site soon revealed an interesting patient demographic which, ultimately, would guide the fledgling physician to his lifetime location.

"In Brooklin, I saw a sizable number of patients from Port Perry. I learned that it was listed among Ontario's 'under-doctored' communities. Not only that, but there was a need for a new clinic in town – there was only one at that time. And once the new hospital opened [in April, 1969], we felt a facility to house a number of new doctors would help to keep it vibrant."

With two colleagues, Bob founded a facility, surely part of his professional legacy to the community, Port Perry's Medical Associates. The new clinic began humbly, he remembers.

"Hard to imagine now, but the original clinic was just the flat-roofed section at the north end of today's building. It's been very gratifying, to watch that little clinic grow along with the population of the area."

As Bob and his co-founders had predicted, the new clinic did contribute to the health of the Port Perry Hospital. Bob Allin again played a role, as a member of its Board of Directors.

"In the early 70s, U of T wanted to expand its physicians' training beyond downtown Toronto. [Fellow founder] Dr. Cohoon served as liaison with the University, so when an agreement was finalized, we began instructing residents. Today, Port Perry's their most senior teaching facility."

Dr. Cohoon proposed performing minor surgery in Port Perry. It was Cohoon's initiative which allowed Bob to begin diversifying



Dr. Robert Allin, 2010.

his career beyond family practice, as a surgeon, inevitably, needs an anesthetist.

Preconceptions permeate public perceptions of anesthesiology. But you won't hear a trace of impatience in his tone while explaining this highly technical and demanding medical role.

"Some people think the anesthetist's job ends after a sedative is administered," he laughs. "It's quite the opposite!"

An anesthetist remains in charge of the patient's vital signs – breathing, heart rate, blood pressure – during any procedure. Each element is manually charted. In addition, the level of sedation must be closely monitored throughout, demanding unbroken concentration as well as close communication with the surgeon.

"I'm very active and busy in my own right, so I'm not focusing on what he or she is doing. But we talk a great deal. If one of us is having difficulty, the other needs to know immediately."

A number of factors contribute to the anesthetist's challenge. "Everyone metabolizes anesthetic differently, so it will wear off at much different rates. Health, weight, and an individual's makeup are all factors. It's crucial to both surgeon and patient to maintain a consistent level of sedation. And when the operation is nearing its end, that level must be adjusted so the patient emerges from sedation at the appropriate moment."

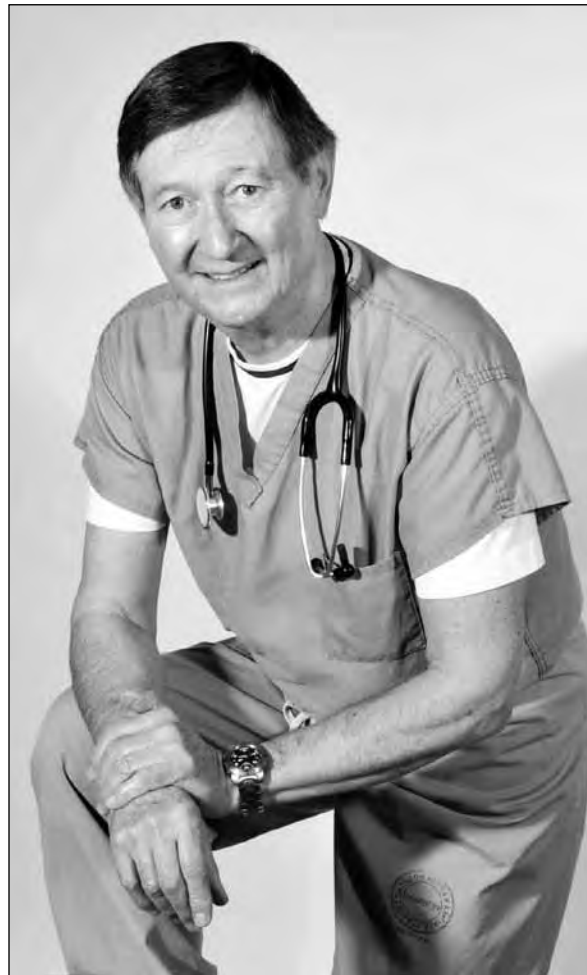
Health and age have, historically, been key factors in determining whether or not to proceed with surgery. As a person ages, the vital organs lose efficiency, creating greater risk under anesthetic. But despite these unchanged medical facts, Bob indicates there has been a significant shift in attitude on both sides of the scalpel, even for the elderly.

"People live longer now, for one thing. And the public has a desire – you could almost call it "expectation" – that if a surgical option exists, the doctor should go ahead.

"I know of a 94-year old who had a hip replacement...two years later she was back to have the other one done! Granted, she was healthy, but at one time, her age would've ruled out surgery as a consideration."

His busy professional schedule extends beyond family practice, anesthesiology, and teaching to include a "sideline," one which inevitably invites curious questioning – among medical professionals and magazine writers alike.

"Yes, it can sometimes be unpleasant," he admits of his role as coroner. "But you do get hardened to it over time. And it's an important



Dr. Robert Allin, 2010.

function, an opportunity for the medical community to learn, so even if the scene is grisly, you quickly regain your objectivity. And it has its own scientific 'attraction,' because no two circumstances are ever the same."

The Coroner's function has evolved considerably from its origins in old England (where the title may have been "crownor") when he was charged with gathering the King's taxes from the expired. The modern practitioner, Bob explains, is a medical investigator.

One in four deaths will require a Coroner's examination, and among those, Bob will order one autopsy.

"Any time there's a sudden, unexpected death, or one during surgery, one of us [Bob is among a rotated group of qualified professionals] is called in," he explains. "The Coroner's report provides an explanation which may be valuable for future, similar circumstances."

Like his interest in medicine, Bob developed an affinity for community service as an adolescent.

See "Dr. Bob Allin" on page 39

Dr. Robert Allin . . . from page 37

His involvement began as a high school student awarded a trip to Kingston's Queens University to study the United Nations.

"That stimulated my interest in Rotary," he remembers. "They do wonderful work."

Bob would repay the favour of his youthful experience to another generation of teenagers when he continued his involvement as an adult. As Youth Exchange Chair, he coordinated a program which allowed year-long exchanges with young overseas Rotarians.

Bob remains a charter member of Port Perry's Rotary Club. Only the weight of his professional commitments precluded long-term membership in the group's executive. And with his schedule, who would question that decision?

Outright "retirement" isn't yet listed in this devoted physician's lexicon. But when that "right" time to retire does arrive, Bob expects to continue with a busy schedule – though of a much different kind.

"We both love to travel," he says. "My wife has relatives in Tasmania, so we'll visit there. And here at home, we'll work around our [Port Perry waterfront] property...gardening and such. We enjoy boating in summer and skiing in winter."

With a proud glow, he adds: "And of course we'll have lots of time for (grandchildren) Abby, who's three, Cassie, she's two, and Callum, now six months. They keep us very interested and very busy!"

Some people place value on a job's prestige or income potential. But others would argue – and Bob Allin surely numbers among them – that personal fulfillment remains professional life's greatest reward. Only a few can say with conviction – 50 years along a demanding career path – that they enjoy their work as passionately as ever. Port Perry can be thankful to claim one of this rare breed as its own.

*By Scott Mercer
Reprinted with permission,
March 2010 issue, Focus on Scugog*

Dr. Guntis Silins



Dr. Guntis Silins, 1980.

Dr. Guntis Silins, was born in Sweden and came to Canada, becoming a citizen in 1966.

After graduating from the University of Toronto in 1974 he practiced medicine at Tobermory, Lions Head and Wiarton, Ontario. While in Tobermory, he served as medical Associate for the Hyperbaric Facility, used to treat underwater divers.

With a keen interest in scuba diving, he has served as a medical investigator for Petro Canada, looking into problems and safety of diving operations. He has also lived in Australia and Taiwan where he studied at the China Medical College, earning a certificate as a physician acupuncturist.

In February 1980 he came to the Port Perry Medical Clinic on Queen Street and took over the practice of Dr. Russell Martin who died following his tragic car accident a few months earlier.

Dr. Silins stayed at the downtown clinic for two years before joining Medical Associates in 1982. Seven years later he left Port Perry and returned to Toronto in 1989.

Dr. Guntis Silins passed away on March 31, 2003. A funeral was held at St. John's Latvian Lutheran Church, Toronto on April 9, 2003.

He left behind his wife Ruta and children Matiss, Austris and Krisjanis.



The Docs'

DR. JOHN McINTYRE

Surgeon Dr. John McIntyre was never a member of the Medical Associates of Port Perry clinic, but he did perform surgery for some of the doctors at the local clinic in the for a number of years.

Dr. John McIntyre, his wife Shirley, and small daughter arrived in Uxbridge in November 1958, and lived in an apartment for a short time, while their new home was being constructed on Dominion Street.

Here he began his work as a surgeon at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital and also Port Perry Community Memorial Hospital.

In 1965 when Drs. Ralph Price and William Cohoon set up practices in the town, Dr. McIntyre and other physicians in the downtown clinic, are reported to have not been welcoming. This created an unpleasant conflict between the Port Perry Medical Clinic doctors and the new young doctors who created Medical Associates of Port Perry.

Dr. McIntyre was born in Blythe, England about 1926, and immigrated to Canada as a young man. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1951 as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Following his graduation he spent five years post-graduate work in surgery, including pediatric and bone surgery. He was the Medical Officer of the St. Lawrence Seaway Hydro project for one and a half years during which time he set up a 30 bed hospital at Cornwall.

Dr. McIntyre's sister, Dorothy (McIntyre) Nelson was a nurse at the Port Perry hospital. This connection may have been what prompted him to travel to Port Perry to work alongside Dr. Russell Martin at the Port Perry Medical Clinic for many years.

Dr. Robert Allin, of Medical Associates, occasionally referred patients to Dr. McIntyre and performed anaesthetic duties for his surgery at the Port Perry Community Memorial Hospital.

Dr. McIntyre took an active part in his Uxbridge community, serving as chairman of the Businessmen's Association and chairman of the Uxbridge Planning Board. In 1969 he was also a member of a Toronto panel discussing emergency coverage in small community hospitals.

After more than 25 years practicing in Uxbridge and Port Perry, Dr. McIntyre moved to British Columbia where he passed away from cancer.



Dr. John McIntyre



The Docs'

DR. JOHN HAMMETT



Dr. John Hammett, 1970.

John Hammett was born in March 1944, in Toronto and after completing his elementary and high school education, he attended Medical School at the University of Toronto. Following his graduation he opened a family practice at Albany Medical Clinic in Toronto.

It was while attending high school at North Toronto Collegiate, John met his future wife, Elaine Adele Collins. John and Elaine were married on March 15, 1968.

Dr. John Hammett joined Medical Associates of Port Perry in August 1970, partnering with three local physicians; Drs. Bob Allin, Bill Cohoon and Ralph Price.

After arriving, the Hammetts purchased a century home on Cochrane Street where they lived for a few years before purchasing a neighbouring historic home. It was in these homes they raised their family of three children, Clayton, Maija, and Calvin.

Dr. Hammett continued his education, while tending to his family practice, resuming postgraduate studies in Endocrinology and Neurology at Toronto Western Hospital.

In addition to his medical career, John became very involved in the community. He served as co-chairman, along with Dr. Ralph Price, of the original committee formed to save Town Hall 1873 and was instrumental in its restoration.

Dr. Hammett closed his Port Perry practice and returned to school in September 1983, obtaining a Masters Degree in Community Medicine and Epidemiology. Following his graduation, he continued to live in Port Perry, while working as the manager of Ontario's Underserved Area Program, a program designed to recruit physicians and other health care providers to open practices in Northern Ontario.

This position required John to be away from home frequently, flying to small communities in the north. But it was also this introduction to the north that acquainted them with the beauty and vastness of the province.

In 1989, almost 20 years after settling in Port Perry the Hammett family said goodbye to their town and friends and moved to Kenora, Ontario where he assumed the position of Medical Officer of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit.

John returned to family practice with the Kenora Medical Associates group after four years with the Ontario Ministry, having missed the day to day contact with his patients. While practicing in Kenora, John has served as both the Investigative and Inquest Coroner for the Province of Ontario.

John's wife Elaine passed away in June 2012. She was interred at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

Dr. Hammett remarried to Marlene Joan Scharf, on November 20, 2015 and they live in Kenora. He retired from clinical practice in May 2018 but continues to perform surgical assisting.



Dr. John and Elaine Hammett, 2005.



The Docs'

DR. JOHN I. STEWART



Dr. John Stewart, 1981.

John Irvine Stewart retired from his medical career in after serving his community for more than 40 years.

John was born in Toronto, Ontario, the oldest of two sons and a daughter for John T.R. and mother Frances E. (Irvine) Stewart. From the time he was born, on February 21, 1948 it appeared as if John was destined to become a doctor, since both of his parents, his grandfather and a number of aunts, uncles, and cousins were all doctors.

The Stewart family moved to Peterborough when John was one year old, and it was here he attended public and high school. He then attended University of Western Ontario, graduating with a degree in medicine (MD) in 1972.

It was while attending Western that John met Barbara Ann Burr. They were married at the completion of John's second year of medicine, in her hometown of Oshawa, on July 10, 1970. The couple have two boys, Kevin and Todd.

After graduating he spent two years in the emergency rooms in Kitchener, Ontario before learning about a newly-formed medical group in Port Perry, which was looking for doctors to add to its three-person staff. The position provided an opportunity to work in all areas of medicine, so John accepted the job. He and Barb moved

to Port Perry in 1975, where John began working with Medical Associates.

Even as his practice at Medical Associates grew, John still found time to put his talents to use in other areas. He became attending physician at Community Nursing Home, Chief of Staff of Community Memorial Hospital, Director and President of the Port Perry Hospital Foundation, Deputy Chief of Staff of Lakeridge Health, Port Perry, and too many advisory boards to list.

He published a number of medical articles, and served on continuing education committees on diabetes, antibiotic prescribing, and long term care, and held positions on local, provincial and national advisory boards.

Despite his heavy workload, John's secret passion was theatre. In his home town he joined the Borelians Theatre Group and the Scugog Choral Society, working back-stage and also on-stage for numerous productions for almost 20 years. "Being on stage gives me total escape from reality," he said in an interview.

As with most hard working and involved persons, John has received accolades for his work and efforts. Among those are being named, Scugog Citizen of the Year; receiving the Queen's Gold Jubilee Medal, presented the Meds Honour Society Award and the Hippocratic Society Award from the University of Western Ontario, and also the Rotary Club International "Paul Harris Fellow", the organizations highest award.

Dr. John Stewart retired from his medical practice on May 9, 2018, 47 years after he graduated with his degree in medicine.

Dr. John I. Stewart Physician

He was a mere boy when he heard them. But the stranger's words would prove prophetic and provide an impact in shaping John Stewart's professional future.

"If you turn out to be half the man your father is, you will have accomplished something," a patient told the youngster accompanying his surgeon father on hospital rounds. "He saved my life."

John's understanding of the public's deep respect for a talented physician crystallized in that moment. By itself, the brief conversation would not determine the course of his life, yet his fresh memory today of that otherwise-trivial comment proves how strongly it continues to resonate decades later.

Bloodlines weighed equally in promoting a medical choice. Both of John's parents were doctors, as was his grandfather and an astounding assortment of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

"I was surrounded by medical professionals," he recalls with a warm smile.

That combination, one might assume, set the table for the single-minded pursuit of a medical career. But the reality was much different. In fact, John's path was punctuated more by ambivalence than devotion.

"As a teenager, I saw my dad working odd hours, being on-call, and told myself: 'I'll never do that.' Still, I applied to medical school, but hesitated even after I was accepted. My choice was in doubt until the final moment."

In a general sense, entry into medical school clarified John's future course. One important question remained: what branch of medicine would he follow?



Dr. John Stewart, 2003.

Arguably, graduating as a specialist might be more prestigious, and John found encouragement among his professors to enter obstetrics and internal medicine. But after exposure to many potential areas of specialization, John opted for a different direction.

"I liked the variety and challenge of family medicine," he remembers of the decision to become a General Practitioner. "It allows me to treat the 'entire person.'"

"I also have the privilege of seeing multiple generations of the same family. Five generations in one case right now! When I examine the eldest, I see evidence of my grandfather's impeccable surgical work, and that's really special."

Graduation saw John begin two years in Kitchener emergency rooms. Usually, a doctor will divide time between a practice and ER duty, but John's work was done entirely in the emergency room. He looks back on the experience philosophically.

"I figured if I could do 'the deep end,' I'd be ready for anything."

Fate came calling. At a family gathering, a chance conversation revealed that Port Perry's newly-formed Medical Associates was seeking to add to its three-person staff. John fit the clinic's basic requirement, an interest and capability in all areas of medicine. And its location fit him.

"I wanted to be closer to family than Kitchener," he remembers. "Port Perry was perfect."

Each doctor on Medical Associates' roster needed broad knowledge, such that all would be interchangeable. And each had to offer something unique. In John's case, his interest in long-term care would provide that the clinic with that additional skill. So began a lifetime association, both with Medical Associates and with the community's nursing home.

Time passed as Medical Associates prospered and John's practice grew. The experienced doctor received an invitation to sit on a provincial review panel. The opportunity would, in his words, change his life.

"In the early 90s, the Ontario government planned to publish guidelines for the appropriate use of antibiotics," he recalls. "I learned that the Ministry's long-term plan would link pharmacies to a central database, and require a physician's diagnosis for each prescription. Where the diagnosis didn't match their guidelines, Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) would reject the patient's claim.

"I felt strongly this was an invasion of privacy. The government's strategy also implied that we doctors were at fault for overuse and misuse of antibiotics. I raised my concerns to the Deputy Minister, who wouldn't budge. So I vowed to take it one step further and prove their approach wrong."

John spearheaded a three-pronged initiative to do just that, using Port Perry for his study area. Across-the-board education would prove the key to its success. Doctors, pharmacists, and patients would receive a consistent message, delivered in a concentrated time frame.

"We targeted an overall reduction in antibiotic prescriptions. As well, we counseled the medical professionals – pharmacists and doctors – to reduce the use of stronger 'second-line' drugs. The problem with readily prescribing those more powerful antibiotics is that bacteria quickly develop immunity, so their effectiveness is lost. It's a huge issue for hospitals: the bacteria spread but soon can't be effectively controlled."

Studying 10,000 patient visits and comparing to the prior year, the project showed impressive results. Overall prescriptions declined by 10%, while there was a 29% shift to less potent "first-line" antibiotics.

"Port Perry was the perfect location for the initial study," John says. "The right size to easily spread our message, cooperative enough to respond."

The group successfully replicated its impressive results in nine Greater Toronto Area (GTA) communities, but couldn't sustain funding.

Ironically, the project drew worldwide accolades.

"I spoke in Brussels on behalf of our group at a conference on antibiotic stewardship. They were amazed at what we'd done."

The experience sharpened John's interest in the academic side of medical practice. He



incorporated its lessons into teaching medical residents at Port Perry Hospital. With an associate, he is currently developing a two-level website tailored to very different audiences with an equal stake in learning.

“There’s so much new information rushing at today’s family physicians. It’s our goal, on the website, to make information available in both medical and layman’s terms. The antibiotic study taught me the power of delivering a consistent message to the public and those in the medical community.”

The ever-increasing speed of information flow is only one change John has seen over his years of practice.

“Technology has provided better diagnostic tools. But there’s a trade-off: it’s moved us away from using ‘clinical instinct.’ I emphasize the need for that instinctive element in my teaching.”

Operating a busy practice and sporting a lengthy resume of advisory board memberships, John finds release from the stresses of a full professional life with a variety of exercise. He cycles and regularly meets the challenge of a backyard wave pool. And over 35 years, he’s kept a standing squash date with local dentist Dr. Jack Cottrell.

But his hidden passion lies in theatre. John’s trod the boards, and worked backstage, with the local Borelians and Choral Society, earning multiple award nominations from the Ontario Association of Community Theatres.

“Being on stage gives me total escape from reality,” he says. “It’s make-believe, just like being a kid again.”

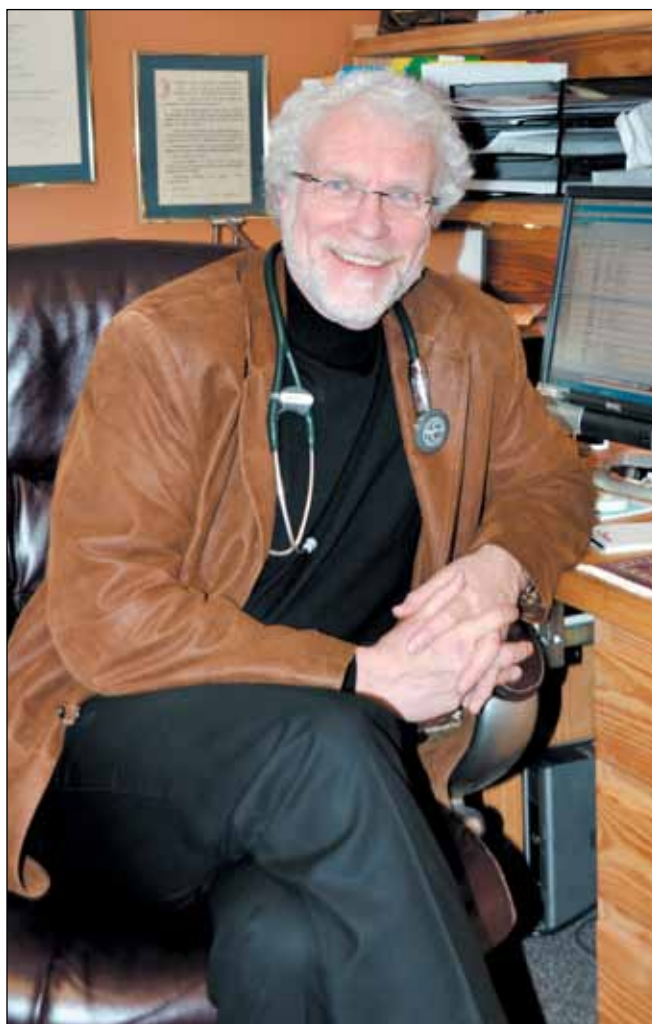
John and his wife Barb have two grown sons. Older son Kevin teaches Science at a Toronto private school, while Todd, two years younger, flies for Air Canada. John chuckles at the observation that the Stewart family’s medical “dynasty” will end with his generation.

“We never pushed our kids in a particular direction. Instead, we encouraged them to be happy with themselves, and they are.”

As is John. From the teenager who initially disdained a medical career, he now has no doubt about the wisdom of that choice.

“I have no regrets. It’s been an amazing opportunity, to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Just like his father did. But years previous, an anonymous hospital patient had sagely predicted that outcome, and unwittingly offered the inspiration for a talented young man to follow his ideal calling.



Dr. John Stewart, 2010.

*By Scott Mercer
Reprinted with permission,
April 2010 issue, Focus on Scugog*



The Docs'

DR. MICHAEL H. KREMPOWICH

Before arriving in Port Perry, Dr. Mike Krempowich spent a number of years in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a medical officer, at one point traveling to Cypress as a member of the peacekeeping force. There he was assigned to a Commando Group of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

Michael Harry Krempowich was born in Hamilton, Ontario on February 13, 1945, to his Ukrainian parents Joseph and Julia (Bazuk) Krempowich. He had one sister, Nadine Mary, born two years later.

Michael attended elementary school in St. Catherines and high school in Niagara on the Lake. After graduating he enlisted in the RCAF Medical Officer's Training Plan, under which he was required to spend a term in the air force as a medical officer after he graduated.

He attended the Faculty of Medicine at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, graduating in 1971 and accepted an internship at St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton. While training to become a doctor he spent time at Camp Borden and in Edmonton as Regimental Medical Officer. He ended his duty as Captain Krempowich, Medical Officer, and was released from his duties from the air force in September 1975.

In 1976 Dr. Krempowich travelled to Elliot Lake, Ontario where he worked in general practice, including minor surgery, obstetrics and anesthesia at St. Joseph's General Hospital.

He left Elliot Lake in the late 1970s and settled in Port Perry, joining the Medical Associates clinic and opening a family practice along side a local group of doctors on Paxton Street, conveniently located across the street from the Port Perry Community Memorial Hospital.

During his time at Medical Associates he held the position of Chief of Staff for three years (1983-1985), was a member Board of Directors of the Community Memorial Hospital, and for a short time was on the staff of the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital.

Mike met Valerie Holland (Lock) in 1980 while skiing at Kirby and three years later they were married at the Old Mill in Toronto. They had two children, Caitlin Julia, and Matthew Joseph, and also raised Valerie's two children from an earlier marriage, Jennifer Elizabeth and Kristian William.

Dr. Krempowich had many interests outside his professional life. He learned to scuba dive, fly small aircraft and parachute when he was in the air force and he was also an avid skier and cyclist. Most of all, since Port Perry was the first place he had been able to settle down, he enjoyed leisure time with his family at their home on Stephenson Point Rd., overlooking Lake Scugog, which he and Valerie purchased in 1983.

Dr. Michael Harry Krempowich was only 48 years old when he passed away on June 14, 1993 at Oshawa Hospital, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was interred at Groveside Cemetery, Whitby, Ontario.



Dr. Michael H. Krempowich



The Docs'

DR. PAUL H. PUCKRIN

Tall, lanky and bearded, Dr. Paul Puckrin does not project the image of a typical doctor, but this bright-eyed man with the infectious smile is loved and admired by his hundreds of patients.

Having grown up on a family farm in rural Brock Township, it's not surprising Paul Puckrin developed a liking for hunting, bluegrass music and farming. All activities he loves and has nurtured for his entire life.

Paul Herbert Puckrin was born on September 13, 1950, in Oshawa Hospital, before returning to Sunderland area farm of his parents Herbert Richard and Enid Lucille (Dusty) Puckrin. Here the Puckrins raised five children, two brothers and two sisters for young Paul.

His early education took place at Pinedale SS No. 14 school in Brock Township; Sunderland Public School and Brock District High School in Cannington. After graduating from high school, he headed of to the University of Toronto from which he graduated with his Medical Degree in 1974.

While attending university, he met Karen Marianne Hickey at St. Michaels Hospital and two years later, on October 3, 1975, they were married at Hart House on the campus of the University of Toronto. They have raised a family of two girls, Sara Jane and Julie Ann.

The far north lured the Puckrins to move 900 km north to Wawa, Ontario in 1975, where Dr. Puckrin practiced medicine for nine years, during which time he served for a time as Chief of Staff at Lady Dunn General Hospital.

Dr. Puckrin and his family moved back to southern Ontario in June 1984, with Paul accepting a job at Medical Associates in Port Perry and purchasing the former Brook's farm home at the north end of the town. He has now practised medicine at the local clinic for more than 30 years, with no plans for retirement in the near future.

He has a deep commitment to his community and has served on numerous boards and associations. These include a term as president of the Medical Staff at Community Memorial Hospital, a member and president of the Port Perry Agricultural Society for 27 years, a long-time member of the Pineridge Bluegrass and Folklore Society, more than 30 years with the Port Perry Rod and Gun Club, and founder of the Outback Cloggers who he has instructed from a studio at his home from 1994 to present.



Dr. Paul Puckrin, 1997

Some of his other interests include motorcycles, fiddle music, private aviation, metal working and blacksmithing. He volunteers his time at the Highland Games of Durham and the York-Durham Heritage Railway, and Scugog Shores Museum. With the help of friends he moved the "Rodman Cabin", the home of his great, great grandparents, to the local museum site on Scugog Island for its preservation.

Busy with his medical practice and busy with his spare time, Dr. Paul Puckrin is not one to sit around. There always is something to do.



Dr. Paul Puckrin, left, instructing a class of cloggers at his dance studio in Port Perry.

One of Dr. Paul Puckrin's pastimes when not in his office attending to patients, is an old style of folk dancing called clogging. In fact, it could be said that clogging has become his passion over the past 25 years.

Dr. Puckrin is the founder of the Outback Cloggers, a group of over 50 local residents who share his love of folk dancing. Clogging – its name derived from the heavy wooden “clog” footwear worn by its originators centuries ago – carries a rich history from Irish, English, and Scottish cultures.

Dr. Puckrin describes himself, laughing as he does, as having grown up a “typical man,” a reluctant participant on the dance floor.

“I was at the Mariposa Folk Festival in the early 1970s to enjoy bluegrass music. But I heard this amazing sound from a distance and investigated..

“My wife, Karen, had suggested ballroom lessons. But about the same time, we saw a clogging demonstration by a local group at the Port Perry Fair. It became our compromise.”

From the start, Paul was hooked. When the original instructor moved away, he proposed a new facility for the dancers. A sizable storage building on his property, once renovated, offered a perfect spot. He earned his Instructor's Certificate, and the group found new life. Soon they were ready to make public appearances, but lacked a name.

“One of our dancers came up with that,” he remembers with a chuckle. “She said that our practice facility was ‘out-back’ of my house, and the name stuck.”

The Outback Cloggers put on as many as fifteen demonstrations a year at local fairs and fundraisers. Dr. Puckrin describes the appearances as “our way of giving back to the community.”

In preparation, the group meets twice weekly. Its makeup crosses generational and gender barriers: kids to seniors, women and men. As instructor, Dr. Puckrin wears a wireless microphone, and communicates the sequence of steps much like a square dance caller. He breaks down the routine into manageable chunks – “drag, fly, drag-step” Puckrin repeats while demonstrating one series – while the students study his movements intently.

“You certainly have to concentrate, but unlike a lot of other forms of folk dancing, clogging doesn't survive on competition. It's just fun, and that's what you see as you look around the room. It's also very social.”

A mixture of musical styles – country, bluegrass, pop – fill the practice hall so everyone's musical taste is satisfied. Any uptempo tune can be adapted, and Dr. Puckrin confides he finds himself occasionally listening to an unfamiliar song, planning in his imagination how various clogging steps might compliment its beat. His passions for music and for clogging never venture far from his mind.

“There's something primal about the attraction to rhythm. I feel it, but I'm not sure I can explain it.”
It's his passion. No explanation required.



DR. MICHAEL P. MONAHAN

Michael Peter Monahan was born about 1961 and graduated from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1981. After receiving his medical degree he began his career as a medical practitioner.

In May 1986 Dr. Monahan, with his wife Janine moved to Port Perry, and began a practice in medicine with his new colleagues at Medical Associates.

Although only in Port Perry for a short time, his colleagues praised him as an excellent and well-liked doctor and were disappointed to see him leave.

In May 1991, six years after arriving in Port Perry, he resigned from the Medical Associates clinic to return to his hometown of Kingston, Ontario, where he entered into a solo practice.

Twenty-five years after arriving in Kingston, he was described by his patients as being a very kind and caring physician.

Dr. Monahan's medical office is located at 190 Wellington St., Kingston, Ontario and he was still practicing medicine in 2018.



Dr. Michael P. Monahan

DR. ALLAN EIX

Dr. Allan R. E. Eix attended McMaster University, Hamilton graduating in 1979 and receiving his certificate to practice on June 19, 1980.

Dr. Eix and his wife, Peggy, came to Port Perry, joining Medical Associates in 1981. They moved into a century home on Ella Street and lived there until they moved about six years later.

He was a personable, well-liked doctor, and while practicing in Port Perry became a member of the board of the Canadian Medical Protective Association. This led to him making a career change about June 1988 when he moved to Ottawa and joined the CMPA. The association protects the professional integrity of physicians and promotes safe medical care in Canada.

At the CMPA, Dr. Eix became a Physician Risk Manager. He held this position until he retired in 2013.

DR. ANKELLY ARMSTRONG

Dr. Ankelly Armstrong joined Medical Associates in September 2008. She is originally from the sunny twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and immigrated to Canada in 2000.

Ankelly went on to do undergraduate studies in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Trent University. She was then accepted for medical school at McMaster University in Hamilton and followed up with residency training in Family Medicine at the University of Toronto.



Dr. Ankelly Armstrong

Dr. Armstrong has a special interest in Obstetrics and embraces preventive health care as a main focus in her practise.

Apart from her work life, Dr. Armstrong is most often involved in music and the arts, including Bollywood.

Effective June 2018, Dr. Armstrong was still practicing at Medical Associates of Port Perry.



The Docs'

DR. GORDON R. MERCER

Some people search for years before choosing a vocation, while others find a line of employment, but little fulfillment at the end of that pathway. With a satisfied smile, Gord Mercer says he's found a balance of both. "I enjoy never knowing what's coming, one day to the next," he explains of his family practice in Port Perry. "Every day's different, and with such a wide range of situations and people, you couldn't ask for more."



Dr. Gord Mercer, 2010.

Gordon Richard Mercer chose his calling early. Even as a young man, he knew exactly what line of work he intended to pursue and never wavered.

"I honestly never considered another career," he recalls. "And why that one...? I admired our local doctor, but it was more than that which steered me into medicine. I enjoyed challenges and mysteries growing up, and solving those is exactly what a doctor does."

The young man from Sutton took up pursuit of his goal at Kingston's Queens University. His thirst for diversity defined his specific medical path.

"I decided on family practice because it offered such variety: a bit of office, clinic, emerg, and obstetrics." The location of his training also foreshadowed the future.

"I did my residency in a rural community near Winnipeg. In many ways, that town was like Port Perry in size and its hospital's service area."

But beginning his career – in any town – was not yet in the cards.

"(My wife) Kathy and I took a 14-month backpacking holiday after graduation. We'd worked hard in school, and this was our reward."

The trip would see them crisscross the Pacific Rim, from the South Seas to the Asian continent. It even included some professional experience, doctoring in New Zealand for a short period. Ironically, it was Kathy's skill set which threw that door wide open.

"We'd decided to look into an

exchange program for doctors – ‘down under’ they recruit docs to provide summer coverage. We found out that Kathy’s credentials were one of their most in-demand positions. They said I could come along as her ‘dependent!’”

Kathy’s degree in Occupational Therapy cemented the plan.

“It’s an unheralded profession which serves a wide variety of needs in society,” Gord says proudly of his wife’s designation. “Here she works with children with special needs as part of the school system, but in New Zealand her role was quite different: she helped geriatrics with practical adaptations in their daily lives, like the use of devices to facilitate dressing or how to best position a grab-bar.”

Port Perry’s Medical Associates numbered ten when Gord was ready to begin his career. He recalls his hiring in early 1989 as a perfect storm, a coming-together of the clinic’s needs and his ability to contribute.

“I actually came knocking at their door, after looking into a number of communities’ programs. There was no job opening posted.”

“There was a common team-based approach among the members which was exactly what I wanted, and I suppose I had the makeup to fit in. Each physician covered for the others by taking a turn in the office, emergency room... whatever was needed.”

“Dr. Allin and I clicked during that interview. I remember he said, after hearing about our backpacking adventure: ‘Good, you’ve sown your wild oats!’ He knew I was in for the long haul, and so did I.”

While he successfully integrated with his new professional surroundings, Kathy and Gord quickly became part of the community.

“Kathy was pregnant when we came to Port Perry. When Laura was born – having a child growing up in the community – that’s when you’re truly a part of it. That was in 1989, and it’s been perfect.”

The family expanded to four with the arrival of Brianne five years later. Their small circle became Gord’s focal point.

“I’ve been racking my brain, trying to think of what to say when that topic came up,” he smiles as the conversation shifts from professional to personal life. “I don’t have any consuming hobbies. I’m a devoted family man, and when I’m not focused on

my practice, my attention’s here with them.”

“I’ve coached soccer and hockey over the years, led Cubs in my early days here. As a family, we enjoy camping and canoeing, and just generally being together, even if it’s something as simple as riding bikes into town for ice cream.”

His pride in his two daughters is evident in his tone.

“Laura was born with Down Syndrome, and thanks in large part to Kathy – her training and background were ideal – she’s living a full life, independently. Brianne’s off to Guelph University this fall, pursuing animal biology. Another doctor maybe...? She’s not saying!”

Gord’s professional scope has expanded over time.

“I’ve been part of the group teaching doctoral residents the past dozen or so years,” he explains. “It’s a way to enjoy the medical experience all over again – the thrill of those ‘firsts’ a new person feels – as well as helping to contribute to their professional development.

And here’s an interesting irony: maybe 50 per cent of the doctors in the current clinic came originally to Port Perry as part of that Rural Resident Program, and chose to stay. That says great things about the community.”

With the growing trend toward hometown medical services, Gord envisions further expansion of the clinic in the foreseeable future.

“We have a great group of docs in our clinic. But there are other services – diabetic counselling, chiropodist, dietician – which we might be able to add to complement what we do with specialized skills.”

There’s an infectious enthusiasm in his voice as Gord describes the future, whether it’s talk about the clinic or his daughters’ evolution into adulthood. Retirement, he insists, isn’t anywhere on the horizon.

“Kathy’s given up asking me,” he laughs. “I’m not considering retirement because I’m having too much fun!”

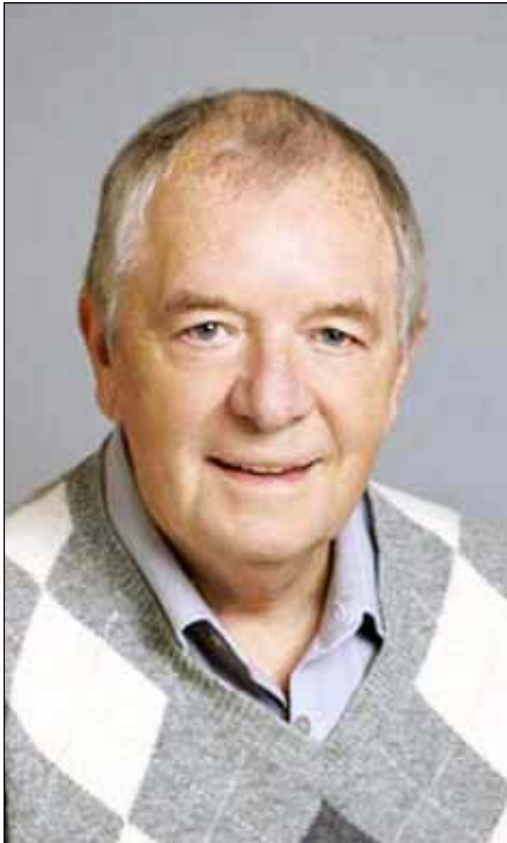
It’s a balance the whole world yearns for: a job to provide a comfortable living as well as personal satisfaction. All seek it, only a few achieve it. Gord Mercer’s one of those fortunate people, who knew at an early age what he wanted from his professional life, worked hard to attain it, and now thoroughly enjoys the fruits of that labour.

*By Scott Mercer
Reprinted with permission,
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The Docs'

DR. JOHN M. FORSTER



Dr. John Forster

John Matthew Forster was born in Corbridge, England on May 12, 1943, one of two children for Alan and Marjorie Forster. After completing his elementary and high school education, John attended the University of Durham, in North East England, graduating as a physician.

While attending the Royal Victoria infirmary hospital, in Newcastle on Tyne, John met a young nurse who would become his wife. John and Gillian Phillips were married on June 30, 1966 at Tynemouth, England. He and his new wife immigrated to Ottawa, Canada two weeks later, arriving on July 13, 1966.

Dr. Forster opened his first practice in Mississauga, Ontario, but throughout his life he provided medical services to many communities. He practiced in Sioux Lookout, Ottawa, Newfoundland, Labrador and Hornepayne, Ontario before coming to Port Perry to open a private practice.

Dr. Forster served as the first President of the Ottawa Carleton Palliative Care Association in the late 1980s but it wasn't until later that he restricted his practice to that discipline, providing home and hospice care to his patients in Ottawa.

Most of his career was spent in academic medicine where he was a Professor and Chairman in Family Medicine at both Memorial University of Newfoundland from 1983 to 1986, and at the University of Ottawa from 1996 to 1994.

After arriving in Port Perry, John and Gillian purchased a home on Scugog Island. He provided medical services at Medical Associates of Port Perry for five years from 1995 to 2000 and was on staff at Lakeridge Health, Port Perry. While mainly a general practitioner, he had a special interest in palliative medicine and care.

While a resident of Port Perry for a relatively short time, Dr. Forster did get involved in his new community, taking part in productions by the Scugog Choral Society and becoming a member of the choir at the Church of Ascension.

After resigning in May 2000, he moved to Manitouwadge, in Northern Ontario, where he served as a physician and Chief of Staff at the local hospital until 2005. He then returned to Ottawa where he became a member of the staff at Ottawa Hospital. He worked part time in a community-based practice in Palliative Medicine until he retired in 2013.

Dr. John Forster and his wife Gillian now live in Kanata, Ontario. The Forsters have three children, Nick, Alan and Alistair. Alan is an doctor of internal medicine in Ottawa.



DR. ROBERT S. DOLMAN

Robert Stevenson Dolman was born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1919. His parents were Samuel and Myrtle Dolman. He had one brother, Douglas, and one sister, Joan.

After completing his elementary and high school education, he attended Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, graduating in 1952 with a degree in family medicine.

He met Ruth Margaret Hartley while attending university and in 1946 they were married. They raised three children, Nancy, Bob and Leslie, but this marriage ended about 1980. Dr. Dolman remarried later in his life to Patricia Harding, who had two children.

The Dolmans moved west a short time after Robert graduated and they spent more than 10 years in Victoria, British Columbia, before returning to the Toronto area in the mid-1960s.

In Toronto he became a general practitioner at Sunnybrook Hospital and Toronto East General Hospital. In 1962 the family moved to Indiana for one year where he worked at Eli Lilly as Medical Director. The following year he returned to Toronto become Medical Director of Eli Lilly Company of Canada.

In 1995, at the age of 75 years, Dr. Dolman decided it was time to slow down. He moved out of Toronto and came to Scugog Township where he continued his medical career at a reduced pace. Two years after arriving, he and his wife Patricia constructed a new home on Paxton Street, Port Perry.

Bob, as he was known to his colleagues at Medical Associates of Port Perry, joined the office of Dr. Tony Brown and Dr. Michael Gilmour, providing medical service to some of the young doctors overflow patients. Dr. Dolman was well liked and is reported to have spent a lot of time with his patients, who loved and appreciated his special care.

As he aged, he began to struggle with his health, especially his eyesight, and reluctantly he was compelled to retire from the career he loved so dearly in 2001. Following his retirement he had an accidental fall, resulting in further deterioration of his health.

Dr. Robert S. Dolman passed away on November 2, 2002. He left behind his wife Patricia, and children Leslie, Nancy, Bob and Deborah. A service to celebrate his life was held at the Wagg Funeral Home, Port Perry on November 6, 2002.



Dr. Robert S. Dolman



DR. MARK ADAM & DR. NANCY KAZARIAN

Life can be an emotional roller-coaster for most small town physicians. One minute they can be experiencing the ‘high’ of bringing new life into the world, and the next, faced with informing a family that one of their loved ones have died.

“It’s like a double-edged sword,” explains Dr. Nancy Kazarian, a member physician of the Medical Associates of Port Perry. “You go from one extreme to the other and it can be hard to handle the trauma.”

Not one to make light of the dramatic experiences that often make up the life of a doctor, Nancy understands the toll that her job can have on one’s emotions. But for her and her husband Dr. Mark Adams, a fellow family-based doctor, the emotional roller coaster and the 24/7 work schedule cannot compete with the satisfaction that comes with saving lives and caring for the Scugog community.

Nancy and Mark decisively agreed from the beginning that Port Perry was the ideal place for them to begin their careers and raise a family of their own. They arrived in town in June 1999.

While Nancy was originally drawn to Port Perry in her years of “residency” – a term used to describe the time period when medical students are trained within a clinic and hospital – getting the opportunity to practice in the town would prove to be a challenging feat.

Although Nancy grew up in London, she became familiar with the area after meeting Mark, who had grown up in Blackwater. It was a combination of the small-community feeling and the nostalgic charm of the town that prompted Nancy to request her residency in Port Perry.

“Port Perry is actually a very popular training site,” she explains, adding a lot of students want to be placed here.

Because the process of choosing residents is done through lottery, Nancy continued to wait for her preferred choice



Drs. Nancy Kazarian and Mark Adam, 2010

and her chance would eventually come after her two years of training was actually over. She came to the town during her “elective time” but once she arrived, she knew she had found the perfect place.

Mark also had his heart set on Port Perry. “We always wanted to practice rural medicine,” he explains.

By practicing rural, Mark and Nancy have the opportunity to work in multiple disciplines of medicine. While both are primarily family-based doctors, Mark also specializes in anesthesiology and emergency and Nancy, after giving up “emergency duties” found her forte in obstetrics. She is also the current leading physician for the Maternal Child Program at the hospital.

Nancy explains that her choice to focus on obstetrics stems largely from the special relationship she was able to develop with her patients.

“As both a family doctor and obstetrician I get to deal with every spectrum of the human dimension. The best part is being there to deliver (babies) for my own patients,” she says.

As a result, Nancy says she is able to establish an extraordinary connection with her patients and this is due to both the small-town nature of Port Perry and her involvement in multiple disciplines.

Nancy says originally, she was intrigued by internal medicine, which is the study of internal complications of the body, and she followed this passion to university.

While this factor is still true, she now finds more solace in her patient relationships.

“The outpouring we have received from the community is unbelievable and I really realized this when I was pregnant” she says. “Our patients are our friends and our neighbours and they want to celebrate our lives with us.”

Nancy says it is not uncommon for her patients to stop by with lunch or dinner when they know she and Mark are struggling to juggle their hectic lifestyle. “It’s this support that makes us want to stay,” Mark adds.

Mark describes his path towards medicine as more of a “transitional” phase than a childhood aspiration. “You find your way to it, it’s part of a path and the inspiration comes along the way,” he explains.

As a student who loved problem solving and working with technology, it was simply the perfect fit for him. “It’s about compatibility – realizing what you do your best in,” he explains with confidence and ease.

After meeting in medical school at the University of Toronto, Mark and Nancy would see each other through years of intensive medical training.

As if this were not enough to challenge a relationship, the couple decided to take a road trip across Canada together after only a year of dating. Both Nancy and Mark joke that after enduring seven weeks of travelling 13,000 kilometres together, they knew they could handle marriage.

It would be a total of eight years of schooling - two years of undergraduate study, four years of medical school and two years of family practice - before the happy couple would settle down to practice in Port Perry and join the Medical Associates



of Port Perry.

Now, ten years later, the couple are happy to call Port Perry home and are relishing the joy that comes with starting a family of their own.

Nancy just recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and the couple also have a son in his toddler years, which keeps them very occupied on the domestic front as well.

Of course, with two young children at home it is hard not to imagine the disadvantages or complications that result from working such a time-constraining and strenuous job. First of all, there is the predicament of the 24 hour work schedule that both Nancy and Mark must adhere to.

"We have to be ready to go at any time of the day if need be," says Nancy, before adding that there is a fine line between home life and work life.

Secondly, there is the anxiety that forms as a side effect of staying in tune with all the latest news and findings within the health world. And now with young children of their own, sometimes this new information can be distressing.

Nancy recalls a time when her young son was sick and his symptoms led her to think that he had a serious ailment. She later realized his condition was not anything near what her mind first led her to believe.

"There is such a thing as knowing too much," she admits. "Sometimes you automatically think the worst." It can be stressful and emotionally-draining, especially when both parents are susceptible to the same "unpredictable" work schedule and the same alarming research.

But, with Nancy and Mark, it is impossible to notice any sign of grievance or resentment. They are accustomed to the lifestyle and, while there may be some "obstacles" they admit to with their line of work, both doctors are appreciative and eternally grateful for the work environment they are a part of.

This environment includes their involvement with the Medical Associates of Port Perry – a group which formed in the early 70s and currently consists of 25 doctors who practice in a clinic across from the hospital, Port Perry Lakeridge Health.

"It's really all about teamwork," says Nancy. "Most of the physicians that work in Port Perry stay long-term because we have such a great support system here and that makes a world of difference in the 'retainment' of staff."

Mark adds that the advantage of working with the same staff is the unsurpassed teamwork that results from spending years together.

Spending years together means plenty of comical situations that help to bring a little relief to what can often be a hectic and traumatic work schedule.

Nancy remembers one particular case when an emergency patient, who also happened to be a reporter, used his unfortunate incident as material and research for a news story. "He continued to ask questions about what I was doing so that he could write about it later," she says with a laugh – proof that a journalist will make use of any situation for a story!

Mark recalls caring for a patient in emergency who continued to ask every five minutes what had happened. Fortunately, the patient was fine, but he suffered from short-term memory loss. After answering the same question repeatedly every five minutes, Mark jokes that he and the other physicians decided they should have posted a note for him to re-read each time he forgot.

Aside from their work within the clinic, both doctors have a special devotion to teaching. As members of the Medical Associates team, they teach new medical residents from the University of Toronto and Queens University.

Mark explains that he and Nancy hold conferences, small lectures and educational sessions to teach residents who want to do comprehensive care. Both doctors will shadow and supervise the residents so they can make the transition from medical school to the real world. As Nancy says, "We act as a safety-net."

The interesting part of the job, they insist, is that the same residents Mark and Nancy act as a safety-net for are the ones who keep the local doctors in tune with the ever-changing climate of the medical world. "We all rely on each other," says Nancy.

After all, as she explains, the doctors of Medical Associates all take care of one another – literally. Each and every co-worker is another co-worker's doctor or patient, both explain.

It is easy to see that Mark and Nancy both view their relationships with their patients as one of their top priorities. It's almost as if their co-workers and patients are a part of their external family. Both credit the special nature of Port Perry and the surrounding area for their ability to practice this way.

"It makes the job so much more meaningful," Nancy says with a heartfelt smile.

*By Christina Coughlin
Reprinted with permission,
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The Docs'

DR. MICHAEL M. GILMOUR

"We're running Boston this year," Dr. Mike Gilmour declares proudly. His audience of one is sincerely impressed. And why not? The annual Boston Marathon represents the pinnacle of any runner's competitive ambition. Winning the storied race is never a realist's goal, with elite international runners sprinkled liberally among the field. Simply qualifying marks a world-class achievement.

Earning a place among Boston's throng of starters demands documenting a time, from a previous marathon, below three and a half hours. Mike and his running partner, Dr. Tony Brown, accomplished the feat by recording personal-best times last fall in Picton, fulfilling a long-time shared goal which once seemed more of a pipe-dream.

"When Tony and I began running together recreationally ten years ago, we never thought we'd qualify for Boston. But after finishing 3 or 4 races, we were only 15 minutes off (from the qualifying requirement), so we felt it was achievable with a good showing. It'll be our eighth marathon and probably the peak of our running career."

An impactful event sparked his initial interest.

"Early in my medical career, I watched a teenager die from cancer," he recalls. "That inspired me to run in the Terry Fox, eventually the Port Perry half-marathon."

Now 47, Mike targets completion of ten marathons before returning to more recreational distances. He's philosophical about the demands of his current training program.

"I always say that it would be best for your body to train for a marathon, then be sick the day-of!"

Mike brings the same tenacious dedication to his medical pursuits.

"I especially enjoy treating multiple members of the same family," he says of his practice. "You make a real connection with people, sharing the joy of births and grieving with them when deaths occur."



Dr. Mike Gilmour, 2010.

Early in life, Mike easily identified his eventual vocation. "By ten years old, I knew I wanted to follow medicine," he remembers. "I had a number of relatives in that field, and grew up enjoying sciences in school. So it was a natural progression, and I couldn't be happier with the outcome."

Michael Matthew Gilmour is Toronto born and educated. Port Perry may have begun as only a dot on Mike's provincial map, but a short posting, as part of his two-year internship, convinced Mike and his wife, Janice, that it was a perfect fit and in June 1989 came to town in an internship.

"My placement here lasted only a month, but Janice and I quickly felt the warmth of the town. It allowed us to stay close to Toronto – we have family there and Leafs' season tickets – but also enjoy a community with that 'personal' touch. Just what we wanted, socially and professionally. So when Dr. Cohoon and Dr. Allin offered me a position in June 1990, I jumped at it."

Port Perry's small-town atmosphere, removed from the challenges of big-city life, also suited the couple's future plans.

Janice and Mike began dating in their final year of high school, when they were both swimming instructors with the City of Scarborough. Marriage would wait until Mike completed his medical studies. Janice's own career would take a lengthy, but voluntary, "detour."

"She made a big commitment to our family – and my career – when she took a hiatus from teaching to raise our kids," Mike says. "Three years ago, she decided to go back."

Now 20 years old, elder son Ryan sits midway through his second year at Waterloo with an eye towards his own medical career. Like his 18 year old sister, Kirstie, Ryan is studying kinesiology, hinting his future may lie in optometry. Kirstie, on the other hand, hopes to put her undergraduate degree from St. Francis Xavier University to a different end, pursuing a career as a teacher. Youngest son, Mack, according to Dad, hasn't yet chosen his calling, but as a Grade 10 student, there's still lots of time to experience and decide.

Mike's practice has offered him satisfying professional scope over its 20 years.

"The Clinic had only eight doctors when I arrived, so working here has allowed me to practice the full spectrum of medicine. I've always enjoyed challenges, and I find my work intellectually stimulating."

Mike witnessed, first-hand, what might arguably be Port Perry's most dramatic medical event. When a local bank was robbed 15 years ago, Mike was the on-call physician.

"It's a night I'll never forget," he says, wincing ever so slightly at the memory. "Ambulance dispatch warned us to expect multiple gunshot wounds. Right away, we mobilized a number of off-duty doctors and nurses to assist, and fortunately, all the victims survived. But it was an event which changed Port



Dr. Mike Gilmour, 2010.

Perry: people realized a tragedy of that magnitude could happen here, too.”

Mike recently expanded his scope to include a share of the local coroner’s role.

“I’ve always had an interest in the forensic side of medicine, so when Dr. Allin approached me, I accepted enthusiastically. It’s added a twist to my professional life, some extra variety. It’s much different, of course – you’re dealing with the families, not the patient – but I see it as an important and necessary part of the medical process.”

He’s also begun using his now-veteran knowledge for humanitarian applications.

“Dr. (Tony) Brown is the Medical Director for ‘Feed the Children,’ which provides care in stricken regions of the world. He encouraged me to join their team.”

His acceptance has taken Mike on recent missions in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

“We were the first medical team into some coastal communities which had been ravaged by mudslides. We visited five communities in seven days, providing food and clothing as well as medical care. Janice joined me, assisting with distribution.

“Those were long days in extreme heat, where we’d likely see half the people in a community. Exciting, and very rewarding.”

The experiences also touched him on a personal level.

“In spite of the tragedy around them, the people I met loved life and appreciated what they had, though many had little by our standards. It changed my perspective on a few things. First, how we take so much for granted here, like good food and clothing. But also the ‘struggles’ we see as paramount at home, how meaningless they are by comparison.”

Mike also contributes to Port Perry’s role as a teaching hospital. The rewards of that work, he says, go both ways.

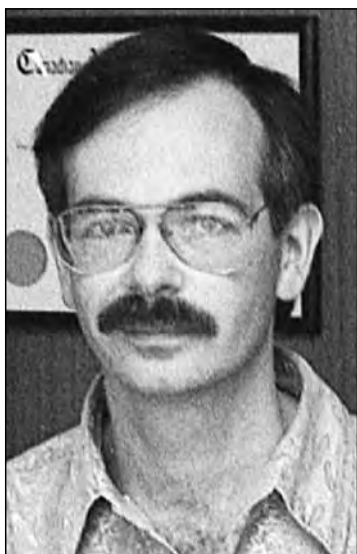
“Teaching helps to keep me current with new developments, and I’m able to offer the students the benefits of my experience.”

Twenty years on, Mike carries forward the community-minded philosophies taught to him in training by Drs. Cohoon and Allin, for whom he reserves high praise.

“They created a ‘flavour,’” he says. “To ensure the community would benefit, leaving no gaps in available care. They recruited wisely, stressing it was each new doctor’s task to maintain that standard. And it was apparent they loved their work. I added their attitude to my career ambitions.”

It’s a career far from its “marathon” finish line.

*By Scott Mercer
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Dr. Kevin Smith

Dr. KEVIN SMITH

Dr. Kevin Gregory Smith graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1985 and joined the staff at Medical Associates of Port Perry in 1993.

In 2009 Dr. Smith, a veteran Port Perry physician, was appointed to the position of department chief-family medicine. The department includes general practitioners who provide a wide variety of services such as obstetrics, emergency room care and general medicine.

Dr. Smith has extensive experience in the areas of inpatient and emergency care and was a member of the Lakeridge Health Port Perry Palliative Care Team and provides nursing home care.

Dr. Smith is described as being kind and compassionate and was highly regarded by both his colleagues and his patients

After 24 years serving his patients in Scugog Township, Dr. Kevin Smith resigned from Medical Associates in 2017.



The Docs'

DR. KIM A. FERGUSON

Most everyone is aware that becoming a physician is an extremely difficult process, which thankfully gives us top skilled doctors to look after our needs. Years of education, amassing great debts and sacrificing personal lives, to reach a specific goal is a challenge few can rise to.

Imagine how challenging that process must be for someone who did not start their career in medicine, but rather switched at a time when she had two toddlers at home and a very understanding husband.

Dr. Kim Ferguson is that woman and she has successfully accomplished what very few people set out to do - a change in career from insurance sales to practicing medicine.

Kimberly Adele Ferguson was born in Orillia. Her father, a salesperson and her mother, a bookkeeper, wanted Kim to go into business with a prominent firm where she would find security and live a traditional life.

"I had always wanted to be a doctor," Kim explained. "When kids use to play doctor the girls always wanted to be nurses. Not me," she smiled. "I wanted to be a doctor."

The family moved to Ajax and when Kim was two they relocated again, this time to Myrtle where Kim attended elementary school in Brooklin.

Kim's dad had always wanted to have a hobby farm and Kim enjoyed tending to horses, cows, pigs, dogs and dozens of bunnies. When Kim was about to head to high school her family moved to north Whitby away from the farm.

Kim attended Henry Street High School and at 14 years of age, started her first part-time job at a real estate office where she worked on weekends. The following year she also worked at the Caddy Shack. Kim started as a clerk and by the end of high school was managing the enterprise. Surprisingly Kim made time to date Randy Ferguson, whom she met when she was 16 and became engaged a year later.



Dr. Kim Ferguson, 2010.

It was time for university and Kim enrolled in a business course at the University of Toronto. She made Randy wait until she was twenty before agreeing to marry him and her dreams of going into medicine drifted into the distance.

Kim accepted a position with Tuxedo Royale in Pickering and when she and Randy moved to Blackstock it was time to get serious about a career. London Life was hiring agents and Kim applied, was hired.

Two years later her son Matthew was born and three years after that Kim and Randy were blessed with a baby girl, Megan. Life was good, but Kim quietly regretted her decision not to follow her lifelong dream.

In 1994, while vacationing in the southeast USA, Kim visited relatives and recalls an extremely influential conversation. "I remember sitting in the kitchen with my cousin who told me that there was nothing I could not do and that I should follow my dream."

The words sank in and Kim explained to Randy that she wanted to change careers. "I am so fortunate that Randy is an understanding person. When I told him of my wish he simply told me to do it." Kim resigned from the life insurance business and attended Trent University, doing an undergrad in Biology and Psychology.

Three years later she applied at all five medical schools and was rejected by four with no response from U of T.

One day, while in Toronto, Kim decided to call on the medical facility at U of T simply to enquire why they had not responded to her admission request. She was told they had and were waiting for her marks. Kim found the nearest phone, called Trent and asked to have her transcripts faxed. That September she started her first day of medical school.

No doubt the Ferguson household was in an upheaval. "I was fortunate my mom lives with us and that Randy had a fair bit of time during the day to help with the kids," Kim said. "I would stay in Toronto when I had to and commute home whenever I had the opportunity.

"My son and I would chat on ICQ every night and I would spend a great deal of time talking on the phone with my daughter." She smiled. "It's amazing how much people tell you when you are not face to face with them."

The hectic lifestyle went on for four years and another year at Toronto East General. Thankfully U of T has a rural Family Medicine program where students have an opportunity to travel to small

towns. Kim jumped at the chance of coming to Port Perry and recalls a conversation with Dr. Bill Cohoon who was 'selling' her on the benefits of working here.

"You don't have to sell me, Bill," Kim relayed her conversation. "I want to come to Port Perry. It's where I grew up."

In 2003 Kim became 'Dr. Kim Ferguson' and absolutely loves the job. "It's all about the people," she explained. "I love the contact and being able to make a difference."

Secretly she is fondest of her obstetrical patients, but treats everyone with respect and care.

You would think juggling a medical practice, two children and a husband would take up most of Kim's time, but it seems there is more.

As part of her practice, Kim works at the Urgent Care Clinic, assists in surgeries, performs minor procedures and along with eight other Docs, delivers babies.

Every other week Kim heads up to the First Nation medical clinic on the island and spends a half day caring for local residents.

She is heavily involved with LHIN (Local Health Integration Network). An extremely worthwhile organization which has the legislative power and authority to effectively plan, coordinate, and fund local health systems making it easier for patients to access the care they need.

One of Kim's roles is to attend meetings and review proposals for increased healthcare for our community.

Kim is also involved with UPA (Unattached Patient Assessment Project) and along with a nurse practitioner and lawyer have developed a model for those people who do not have primary care.

A team of retired physicians, nurse practitioners and nurses travel to rural locations to screen those patients and link them with any care they require, as well as trying to associate them with a primary care person.

Kim is Director of Continuing Medical Education at the Medical Associates of Port Perry a responsibility in which she brings education to the local physicians.

Kim Ferguson is dedicated and committed to taking care of our residents. She enthusiastically summed it all up when she said, "I am so blessed, because I get to do what I love."

*By Jonathan van Bilsen
Reprinted with permission,
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DR. STEVEN B. RUSSELL & DR. ELIZABETH RUSSELL

Long before they met, Dr. Steven Bruce Russell and Dr. Elizabeth Mae Russell had something in common... a sense of adventure. And it was this passion for adventure that lured the couple from the comforts of their southern Ontario homes, on a 5,000 km drive to Yellowknife, North West Territories to begin their exciting new careers as general practitioners of medicine.

Both of the Russells grew up and attended schools in medium sized Ontario communities, Steve in Oakville and Elizabeth in Cobourg. Then it was off to university. For Steve it was the University of Western Ontario in London, and Elizabeth at Queen's University in Kingston for undergraduate studies.

And while Steve attended the University of Toronto to complete his medical degree, it was during his post graduate training in Family Medicine at Queen's that he first met Elizabeth. She had attended Queen's and completed her medical school training in Kingston.

Elizabeth and Steve met in 1989 and after a one year courtship they were married. Steve continued his final year of schooling while Elizabeth stayed on in Kingston, taking additional training.

Finally finishing school in 1991, the young couple began searching medical journals for an "adventure." They considered opportunities in Sioux Lookout and Dryden in northern Ontario before settling on Yellowknife, North West Territories, far north where the tundra kisses the arctic.

Packing all their worldly possessions into a trailer, the adventurous couple began the 5,000 km trek northwest, eventually settling in a cramped cabin on a small island connected by a narrow causeway.

"It was actually a shack," Steve says with a smile looking at Elizabeth. "I think it was about 400 sq. ft."



Drs. Elizabeth and Steve Russell, 2010.

Originally planned as a three or four month stopover, the Russells ended up staying in Yellowknife for two full years, giving birth to their first son, Peter, while living in the remote cabin.

Despite the isolation and harsh, long winters, they loved the far north. "We really liked the people. They were very friendly and welcoming," Elizabeth recalled.

In addition to administering medical services to the people of the territories, the young 'docs' were also required to fly into small, remote communities for delivering babies and attending emergencies.

Elizabeth noted that while they were in these remote areas they provided teaching and training for residents and nurses in the communities.

"We stayed on much longer than we had planned before finally deciding, with an eight-month old son, we wanted to be closer to our families," says Elizabeth. Not long after making the decision to leave the north, they packed up and returned to Ontario.

It was a chance meeting with people from Port Perry that determined their next stop. "We had met a family while in Yellowknife who suggested we check out Port Perry," Steve said, so when they returned they decided to investigate the town and its facilities.

Not that Port Perry was the only town they considered. After scouting out a number of small communities, including Lindsay and Cobourg, they settled on Port Perry because they found the town very welcoming.

After attending a Medical Associates dinner, at which they met many of the local doctors, the decision to settle in the town and begin working was easy.

Steve smiles, when he recalls the meeting with the local medical group. "They really wanted Elizabeth. She became the first female doctor in the town's history. I just came along for the ride."

After renting a house in town for one year, the Russells purchased their first home on Queen St. and settled into the community and their new practices.

From the very beginning, the couple had decided to share their working hours so they could spend quality time with their young family. So Steve and Elizabeth offered the Medical Associates group their services as a 'split-practice', with each of them working half a day.

Now, 16 years after beginning their practices at Medical Associates, they have nothing but great memories with their decision to come to Port Perry.

"This is a great community for raising a family. We came here looking for a small, comfortable town and we found it," Elizabeth says.

They feel fortunate to belong to a group like Medical Associates where their colleagues are also their friends. "The support system of the 'group' provides the benefit of knowing there is someone there to cover for us for holidays and family time," Steve says. "We don't feel isolated."

In addition, they both enjoy the variety of choices they have in a small community like Port Perry. Being part of a group, they share shifts and duties in the emergency room, walk-in clinic, palliative care and the operating room.

"The variety of duties available here makes life far more interesting," says Elizabeth.

And although they both practised obstetrics for the first 10 years, neither provide that medical service any more. "There are doctors here now who specialize in obstetrics," Elizabeth explains.

In addition to their busy practices, the Russells have also immersed themselves into the community in other ways. They have both



devoted time to coaching hockey, are active in the church community and have taken part in various events like the Terry Fox Run, Scugog Choral Society and fundraising for the library.

Another of the Russells more recent interests is their work with Feed the Children Canada. They along with other local medical professionals have teamed up a number of times to bring medical care to the people of third world countries, most notably in Central America.

The busy couple have taken part in a number of one-week missions, bringing care to impoverished people in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Both Steve and Elizabeth say the trips make them feel more grateful and aware of how lucky they are. "Our reward is being able to help others. We get as much out of these missions, as we give," Elizabeth says.

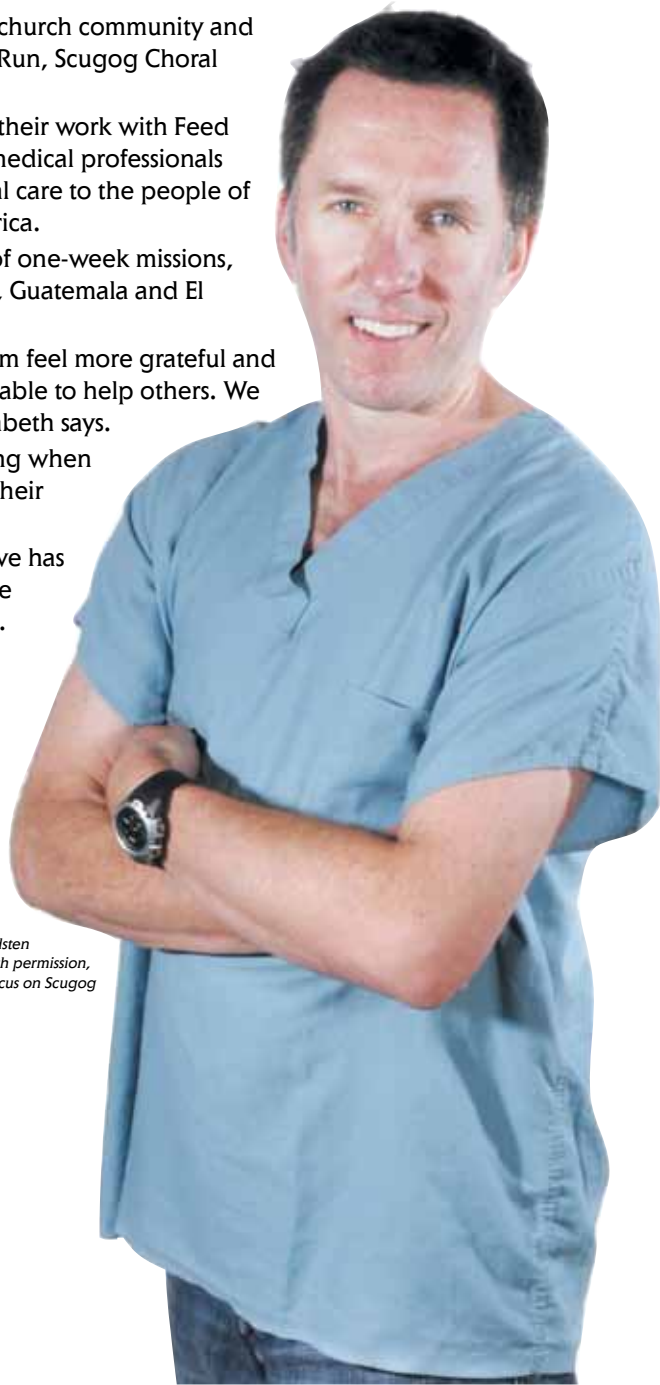
Steve adds that the 'big picture' is overwhelming when it comes to the needs of the people, but also finds their individual stories are very compelling.

Since taking part in these medical missions, Steve has written extensively about the medical teams and the impact they have on the people of Central America. The descriptive and informative articles have been published locally in the Port Perry Star.

Although the challenges presented to medical practitioners is always changing, they say that basic treatment is much the same today as when they started their careers years ago.

"We have a very supportive, positive community and we are proud of the way everyone looks after each other," Steve contends.

*By J. Peter Hvidsten
Reprinted with permission,
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The 'Docs'

DR. MERRILEE G. BROWN



Dr. Merrilee Brown, 2010.

The smell of decadent chocolate fills the air of Dr. Merrilee Grace Brown's kitchen as she expertly works at mixing and stirring her homemade brownie batter. "Sorry, I'm just baking for my son's violin recital tonight," she explains, not the slightest bit frazzled.

Even with a demanding schedule that naturally comes from being a full-time wife, mother, family physician, medical teacher and an on-call emergency doctor, it is evident that Merrilee is completely in her element among all the chaos.

"I can be a 'normal mom' for the most part," she assures. "I'm able to pick up the kids from school at 3:30 and drive them to their activities." And that often includes violin, hockey and soccer practice for her 8 year-old son, Alastair, and piano lessons for her 6 year-old daughter, Sophie. "Fortunately, for the most part, I have control over my schedule."

But even on her days off, Merrilee is still Dr. Brown, which means she's usually on route to check in on her patients or she's preparing for her next teaching gig – she teaches medical teachers

and trainees at both the University of Toronto and Queen's University and regularly speaks at medical retreats.

And because she's constantly on call, her work day is never really done. "We like to call it 'continuity of care'" she says, amused. "But that's what makes the job such a joy," she adds. "We (the 'Docs') don't just give patients a prescription. We are there with them for the journey, helping them along the way."

Merrilee credits the distinct nature of the community for making the experience at Port Perry so memorable for her and her other medical associates. "The (medical) residents usually like it so much here they stay," she says with a surge of enthusiasm. "I know I did!"

She insists the desire to stay stems from many reasons, but most notably from the support the residents (medical students who are placed in a hospital/clinic to work) receive from patients. "Patients here are really doing a favour for us," she insists. "People here are understanding and willing to see trainees and it has really allowed for a lot more doctors in the community."



Dr. Merrilee Brown at home in the kitchen.

She also credits the team of Port Perry doctors and their unique camaraderie for making the everyday chaos bearable. "All of us doctors working together is the only thing that makes it sane," she says, before adding that she and the other 'docs' consistently rely on one another to get the job done.

Merrilee knows exactly who to call if she needs to sign out of emerge due to her own "emergencies" at home. Reflecting on her time here in town, she adds, "Working in other areas showed me what was so special about Port Perry."

After all, Port Perry wasn't always in the cards for Merrilee and her husband, Steve. While Merrilee was initially introduced to the community through her brother, Doug Brown, owner and head pharmacist of the Port Perry Shoppers Drug Mart, she came in 1996 during her 'rural residency' and stayed to do 'locum tenens' work (which means "temporary physician") for three months during the summer of 1997.

"Doug told me how much I would love it here," she says. "And I did. I felt like an old-fashioned doc!"

Perhaps this sentimental feeling had to do with

Merrilee's first experience with some of the locals. It turned out some of the "old-time" farmers around Port Perry knew Merrilee's grandfather, who was also a farmer. "They would say to me, 'Are you Jim Brown's granddaughter?' and when I said 'yes' they would say 'I guess you can't be all that bad!'"

Humour aside, Merrilee says she really did feel at home in Port Perry. "I remember thinking this is a wonderful town with great people." But the old-town charm of Port Perry couldn't compete with the power of love.

Shortly after working the summer in Port Perry, she would follow her heart to Alberta to be with her husband. There in the small town of Stony Plain, which according to Merrilee "had the same agricultural flavour" as Port Perry, she would continue performing 'locum tenens' work for another year.

But Port Perry continued to call her name, and with her husband being a "small-town boy" himself, they both felt Port Perry was the best place to "open up shop."

She remembers one "quintessential Port Perry experience" which solidified, for her, the decision to come back to town.

“One night I admitted a grandfather to the hospital and then delivered his grandchild within the same 24-hour period,” she says with a heart-warming smile.

According to Merrilee the special connection she gets to establish with her patients and their families is just one of the many benefits of practicing in a small town. “You get to work with generations of families,” she adds.

Since settling in town and starting her practice, Merrilee has realized that all the ‘Docs’ have their designated place within the medical community. “Every one of the doctors adds a piece to the puzzle, we have a broad skill-set of doctors here,” she explains.

Family Physician of the Year

Dr. Merrilee Brown, was named the Family Physician of the Year for 2016. The award is presented annually by the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) to a family doctor who provides exceptional care to patients while significantly contributing to the health and wellbeing of their community.

Merrilee has found her own niche in teaching. “I am heavily involved in medical education,” she says, referring to her position as co-chair of the Professional Development Committee for the University of Toronto Department of Family and Community Medicine and her role with the National Joint Committee on Rural Education.

“Teaching is such a joy for me because when I’m teaching I get to share what I love about it with others and it constantly reconnects me with what I love.”

And though she has received a lot of awards for her role in teaching, including the OCFP Community Teacher of the Year award in 2004, the Hollister King Rural Teaching Award in 2006, and the Rural Ontario Medical Programme’s Postgraduate Preceptor of the Year award in 2008, Merrilee humbly says, “The awards have a lot to do with residents. It’s not about me, but the experience they have while they are here.”

According to Dr. Brown, it’s the unique nature of the training here in Port Perry and the unique treatment the residents receive that makes the experience so noteworthy.

“We have the residents over for dinner; we include them in our lives. It makes a difference because in medical school you often don’t get treated as a person, you’re treated strictly as a colleague,” she explains. “But here, it’s different and I think that’s

very memorable. These awards reflect what a great experience it is here.”

Merrilee also insists that the tremendous support of her family, including her husband, Steve, her children, Alastair and Sophie, and her brother, Doug, is what allows her to take on all the work she does every day.

“Without Steve I couldn’t do this. He’s truly a stand-up guy and a hands-on father,” she says, admiringly. “It won’t work unless your spouse is onboard. They can’t fall apart if you’re called away and they definitely have to value what you do because there is a lot of sacrifice in terms of personal time.”

She also admires how well her children have adapted and accepted her often hectic work schedule, “They appreciate what I do – they respect it,” she says. “If they tell me it’s important, I’ll be there, which is a lot of responsibility for kids to have,” she explains, referring to her children’s ability to decide when she needs to sign out of emergency. Merrilee also adds, “But I’m sensitive with the kids. I want them to know that they’re a priority.”

Of Course, Merrilee says she can’t forget her brother, Doug, who has always been “very generous to the medical community.” She credits her brother for not only being the one to encourage her to come to Port Perry, but for also being there whenever she needs a hand.

“I probably overuse him as a pharmacist,” she laughs. “But he’s the type of guy you can call when you’re in a tight spot.”

Like Merrilee, Doug holds a special place in his heart for teaching. As chair of the hospital foundation, he’s often working with trainees and teaching pharmaceutical interns. As Merrilee jokes, “He likes to wine and dine them by donating his boat and his home.”

Aside from the great support team Dr. Merrilee Brown has, she says the most important thing to her is quality family time and Port Perry has provided the ideal platform for that. She and her husband are currently working on restoring their 140 year-old home to make it “kid central.”

“I wanted to live in a place where kids could come by to skate and have hot chocolate and where cookies were always in the freezer,” she says, before joking that they nicknamed the house “Cochrane Community Sports Centre.”

Looking out her kitchen window, with her freshly-baked brownies in hand, she sighs, “We have a really fun, good life here.”

*By Christina Coughlin
Reprinted with permission,
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The Docs'

DR. KERRI L. BEST

For Dr. Kerri Lee Best, her devotion to her children and husband, made the decision to focus on family medicine an easy one. "I always knew I wanted to be a family doctor," she says. "It was a childhood goal and I never veered from it."

However, her interest in teaching proper breastfeeding education to colleagues and other women is a passion that stemmed from her own experiences as a mother. "I realized just how poorly educated we are about breastfeeding when I had my daughter," she explains. "Even I felt lost and I'm a full-fledged physician!"

Kerri knew she wasn't alone in her despair. "There's a lack of resources available to women," she says, before adding that she could only imagine how other mothers – who weren't a part of the medical world – were feeling about it.

Determined to find a way to "teach and help patients prepare for breastfeeding prior to the birth," Kerri spent her spare time taking extra courses. "I wanted to take my experience and help others," she explains.

Now, as part of the Medical Associates of Port Perry, Kerri works as a family physician while living out her dream of specializing in women's health issues through teaching breastfeeding education and doing routine lactation assessments at the hospital.

In addition to her doctor duties, including working in the clinic and on urgent care and doing in-patient care and surgical assistance at the hospital, Kerri also teaches medical students by allowing them to shadow her in her practice. "It's nice to give back and be a teacher for once," she says, "especially after being a student for so long."

Kerri was granted her first opportunity to work in medicine in Grade 13. For her co-op program she was able to work in the hospital doing obstetrics, which is a practice that focuses on caring for women and their babies

during pregnancy.

But, she soon realized it wasn't the right fit for her, explaining that when working in obstetrics, "You are missing a huge part of the life cycle. You deliver a baby and then you might never see that child grow up."

She decided that working as a family doctor was more appropriate for her. "A family practitioner allowed me to do everything, to see it all, to be a part of my patient's lives for the whole journey," she explains. "And I enjoy the variety that comes from having all types of people in my practice," she adds, referring to her



Dr. Kerri Best, 2010.

treatment of men, women and children.

Kerri began her medical training at McMaster University and she completed her 'rural residency' program out of the University of Toronto. While her first year of residency was spent rotating among Toronto's hospitals, she decided to come to Port Perry, like many of the other 'Docs,' for her second year of residency.

Even though she "absolutely loved it in Port Perry" she moved to Mount Albert to practice and be with her husband who worked as a paramedic in the area. In hopes of returning one day, she decided to continue to work in emergency in the hospital as a way of staying "linked to Port Perry."

But Kerri says she "always missed Port Perry." After her daughter was born, they decided to move back and "there was no looking back!" she assures.

The family settled in Port Perry, but with the birth of her son, practicing in emergency became too hard. "I felt like I had to be 'supermom,'" she explains. "It was difficult but I realized as much as my career as a doctor has its place, it's not most important."

Kerri decided, especially after witnessing how valuable life is through her work, family needed to come first. She wanted to be more involved in her children's lives and so she decided to dedicate some of her time to establishing "a presence in their school," through volunteering in the classroom, assisting teachers and reading to students.

Aside from working in the classroom, Kerri is also secretary of the parent council at S. A. Cawker School and she is heavily involved in developing a program called Mothers in Touch, which happens to run in many communities and branches off according to school. "The hardest part is finding the time, but I'm determined!" she insists.

Mothers in Touch, she explains, "Allows moms to come together and pray for their kids." Each meeting is based around a different focus, such as "school bullying" or "purity" and the women will gather together while Kerri leads them in prayer. "It provides an extra cushion for doing all you can for your kids' safety," she says.

She also devotes her spare time to nurturing her love for photography and scrapbooking. "Photography is like my escape," she says. "I can escape from whatever's in my head, especially because my patients are always on my mind."

Kerri says, in times of struggle, she is lucky to be able to lean on her husband for support. "He understands the ups and downs in medicine," she explains, referring to his job as a paramedic.

"He understands when I come home and can't shut my brain off." His encouragement, along with

her adoration for photography, allows Kerri to stay afloat when the emotional burdens of being a doctor become overwhelming.

As part of her motto to "embrace life," Kerri uses her camera to explore and chronicle the things that make her feel content. Her subject of choice? "I like to find beauty in the simple things," she notes, while expressing her delight for photographing nature and her family.

"Scrapbooking became a way for me to integrate the two and it allows me to document my life," she explains. "You realize how precious life is and you have to document those special moments."

Commenting on her relationships with her patients, she says "You become a part of the journey with them. They're giving me a gift as I'm helping them along. It's a privilege to be privy to what they tell you and you can't get that anywhere else." She adds, "It's a big responsibility, but so worth it."

After losing her sister at a young age, Kerri says she has a "depth of sympathy that makes her more emotionally involved with her patients." "When they cry, I cry. When they're in pain, I'm in pain. When they're happy, I'm ecstatic!" she says.

This strong connection to her patients, as well as the desire and willingness to help them "throughout the journey" has led Kerri to make herself as available to her patients as possible. She designed and manages her own website and encourages her patients to keep in touch with her through email.

She also posts regular health updates to her website to keep her patients aware of any new medical research that may be relevant to them. "It's an extra level of me trying to be there - even if it's not physically," she explains. "It's helpful to my patients and myself, especially with time and getting information out quickly to a large group of people."

Kerri says sometimes she will even use the website as a means to catch up with or keep in touch with her patients. "If a patient is going through a hard time, they just need a reassuring word," she says. "All it takes is one sentence to tide over or reassure someone and it's because I have that trust with my patients."

Another relationship built on trust that Kerri greatly depends on is the team of 'Docs' she works with everyday. "It's amazing to find a group of strong-minded people with different personalities that gel so beautifully," she says. "I know it's hard to find and I think a part of it is the huge support we get from the community." She smiles before adding, "It's unlike anywhere else."

*By Christina Coughlin
Reprinted with permission,
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The Docs'

DR. ANTHONY "TONY" BROWN

Self-effacing Dr. Anthony Lennox Brown doesn't subscribe to the commonly-held notion that people enjoy talking about themselves. His discomfort with the topic is evident in body language and words.

"I could talk for hours about my missionary work," Tony affirms. "But much less so about myself. I'm a very private person."

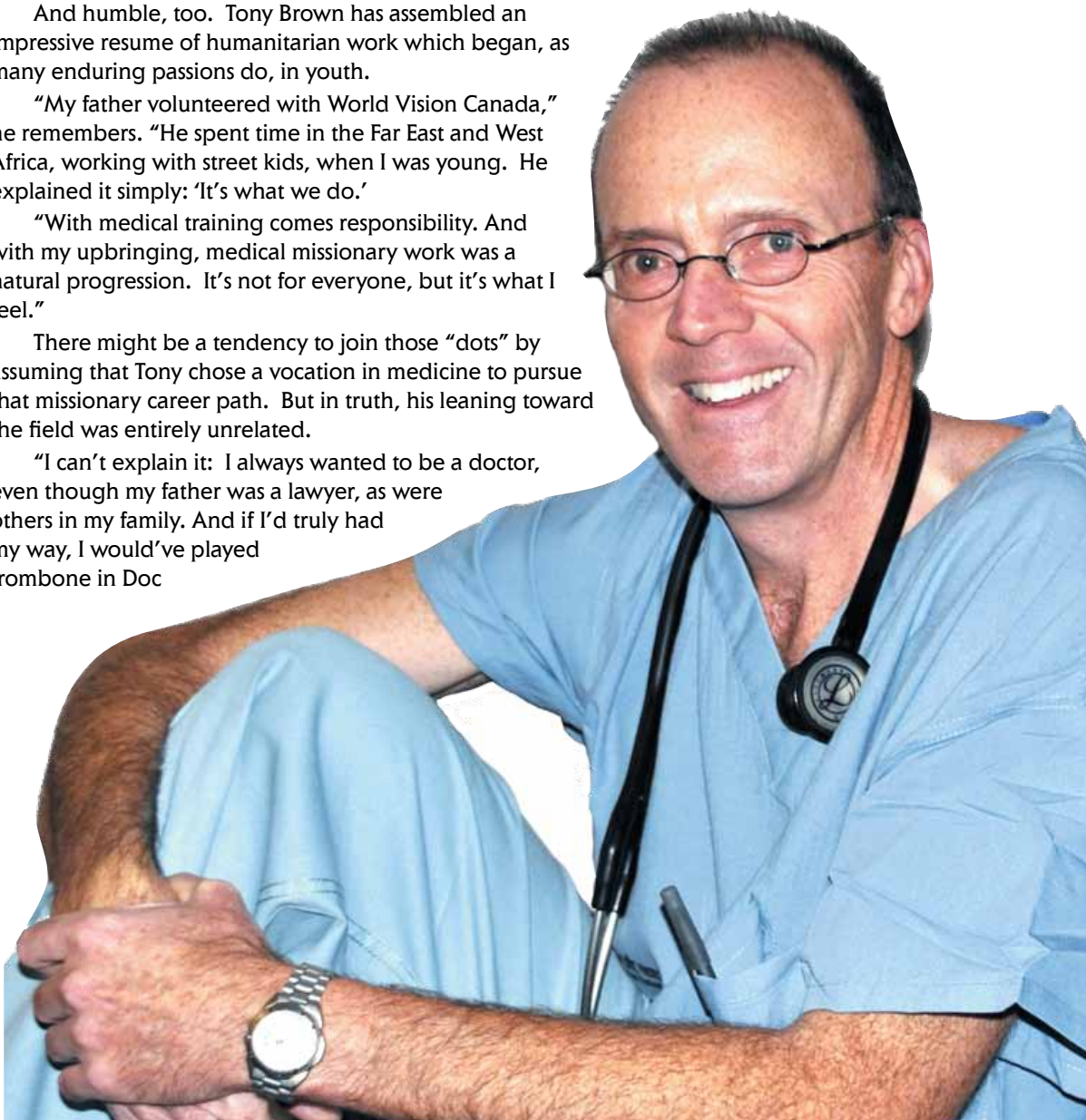
And humble, too. Tony Brown has assembled an impressive resume of humanitarian work which began, as many enduring passions do, in youth.

"My father volunteered with World Vision Canada," he remembers. "He spent time in the Far East and West Africa, working with street kids, when I was young. He explained it simply: 'It's what we do.'"

"With medical training comes responsibility. And with my upbringing, medical missionary work was a natural progression. It's not for everyone, but it's what I feel."

There might be a tendency to join those "dots" by assuming that Tony chose a vocation in medicine to pursue that missionary career path. But in truth, his leaning toward the field was entirely unrelated.

"I can't explain it: I always wanted to be a doctor, even though my father was a lawyer, as were others in my family. And if I'd truly had my way, I would've played trombone in Doc



Dr. Tony Brown, 2010.

Severinsen's band on Johnny Carson!"

Fate played an influential card when the University of Western Ontario med student posted as an intern at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital. A chance meeting would not only change his social life, but ultimately provide the link which would guide Tony and his family to Port Perry in 1989.

"Mike Gilmour and I were both interns at Sunnybrook," he says. "We met in the hospital elevator during our first week, and we've been friends ever since."

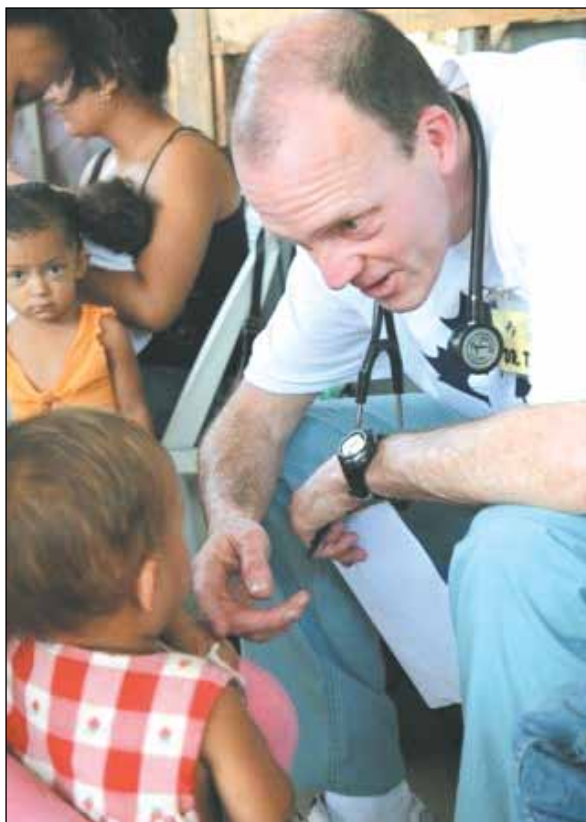
The pair would eventually form a fitness partnership which, in 2010, saw them together complete the prestigious Boston Marathon.

"Mike and I were both looking for small-town atmosphere after we graduated. He recommended Port Perry as a great community to start a practice and raise a family. I told (my wife) Susan 'let's give it six months,' and here it is twenty years later!"

Mike arrived first in Scugog because Tony had opted for a more circuitous route.

"I'd arranged a medical missionary trip to Kenya when I graduated. Then worked six months in Australia. Susan's a speech pathologist, she'd arranged a job-exchange, so I applied to the local hospital."

Tony's missionary work ended when his family



Dr. Tony Brown working in Haiti.

Anthony Lennox Brown made his entrance into the world on August 10, 1963. Born at St. Mike's Hospital in Toronto, he is the only son of three children for his parents J.A. Lennox and Louise Brown. His sisters are Ali and Sonia.

Tony, as he is most frequently called, received his elementary schooling in Don Mills and North York, before attending Newtonbrook Secondary School in North York.

In 1982, after graduating from high school, he moved to London, Ontario where he attended the University of Western Ontario, finishing medical school in 1988.

While attending UWO, Tony met Susan Leslie Fallis and they were married on September 16, 1988.

Before settling in Port Perry, Tony and his wife travelled to Brisbane, Australia for two years of medical training.

Returning to Canada in 1990, Dr. Brown began his practice in Port Perry in 1991. Two years later left for one year to do his post-graduate studies in Anaesthesia at the University of Toronto. He then returned to his practice at Medical Associates of Port Perry.

Dr. Anthony (Tony) Brown is most interested in his family practice and anaesthesia.

with Susan began. But when the couple's three daughters - Zanna (17), Lizzie (14), and Laura (12) - got older, Tony again, in his words, was "bitten by the bug." His re-introduction, ironically, was entirely unrelated to medicine.

"Our church group built a church in Honduras, which inspired me to organize medical missions to Central America. Our community is my first love, but my heart goes out to the developing world."

Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador: Tony Brown has visited them all, and encouraged his local colleagues to join. Their task, he says, was medically basic.

"We provide 'primary care,' meaning the level of service you'd expect from your family physician or at a walk-in clinic."

Tony's most recent mission, however, was anything but routine.

"I'd been in Haiti planning a future mission before the earthquake. When the disaster struck, on-site agencies were decimated, so those medical contacts I'd made pleaded for help. Instead of

months of planning, our team assembled and left immediately. I admit, I was scared at first - I'm no expert in disaster relief, and had no idea what we'd find."

His previous experience in the Port-au-Prince region provided Tony with a unique perspective on the scene when the team of 11 paramedics and three doctors arrived.

"Complete misery and indescribable suffering which I'll never forget," he summarizes. "There was fear, even in children's eyes... fear, sounds of pain and agony, and the smell of death."

He also witnessed the remarkable rebirth of hope.

"Only a few days later, in the middle of all that horror, I saw children playing soccer and heard people singing. It's incredible, the human spirit.

"Difficult as it was to witness such suffering, it's also very rewarding. And I'm fortunate to have my family's full support."

Susan, as well as the three girls, have participated in Tony's missionary work.

"Christian teaching tells us to help others in need," he says. "First-hand experience in the developing world was good for the kids, and they also see the passion Susan and I have for the work."

Church involvement is an important element in the Brown household. Its activities number among those which the family shares.

"Both Susan's and my family have cottages, so we enjoy those times, together with our extended family. We all like skiing in the winter. And Lizzie, Laura, and Susan are competitive horseback riders."

Tony's own competitive spirit often pits him against his most determined rival: himself.

"I love challenges," he admits readily. "A lot of my leisure-time choices reflect that. Golf I find very relaxing, and get out as often as I can in season. And running, that's another 'challenge against yourself,' every time out."

Tony describes his April entry in the Boston Marathon as "a peak running experience."

"It was a thrill, just to qualify," he adds. "It was a tough run, but I was pleased with what I did."

While Boston may represent the summit, Tony insists it won't be his last.

"My marathon days aren't over!" he smiles. "I'll be running as long as my body will allow."

Personal challenge and a peaceful pursuit – two elements Tony cherishes in all his hobbies – converge in another seasonal activity which he and Susan both enjoy.

"She got me interested in bird-watching, so between April and June, I rearrange my office hours to accommodate it. I love learning about the different species and their behaviour, recognizing their calls. I feel the wonder of God's creation."

Tony's varied activities offer peace and tranquility, a welcome break from his busy professional life. In addition to his thriving family practice, Tony is among Scugog's coroners, and one of Port Perry Hospital's anesthesiologists. He finds satisfaction in all three roles.

"Getting to know my patients has been the most enjoyable part of my family practice. I'm starting now to see multiple generations, which is also a thrill. There's an art, and also a challenge, to both the anesthesiologist's and coroner's jobs which I enjoy."

He smiles, before adding:

"But I need forty hours in every day!"

His jest lies only inches from the reality. Balancing three demanding medical portfolios, missionary work, and his personal involvement with family and church, Tony Brown may number among Port Perry's busiest and most in-demand physicians.

The easy smile which accompanies the comment shows how his initial discomfort, speaking about himself, has diminished. Only his humility remains, and that makes his personal story all the more worth telling.

*By Scott Mercer
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The 'DOCS'

DR. TREVOR S. STRYDE



Dr. Trevor Stryde, 2021.

Trevor Sherman Stryde was born in Corner Brook, Newfoundland on April 30, 1968, the only boy in a family of four children raised by his parents, Sherman and Dona Stryde. He attended MacDonald Drive elementary school and Prince of Wales Collegiate high school in St. John's, Newfoundland.

As a young man he worked as an orderly at a psychiatric hospital in St. John's, a security guard and a recreation work at a seniors home. This piqued his interest in medicine and he enrolled at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Trevor graduated from university with a Bachelor of Medical Science, MD and Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada.

Before coming to Port Perry, Dr. Stryde worked as a surgical resident and an emergency physician in a number of small communities throughout Newfoundland.

Dr. Trevor Stryde accepted a position at Medical Associates of Port Perry in August 1999 and it was here he began his profession as a general surgeon for the Scugog Township community. He continues in this capacity to this day.

Trevor was married to Cathy Clark in the United Church at Solina, Ontario on December 29, 2007 and they have four children, Ben, Simon, Dayna and Kait.

When not busy with his surgical practice, Trevor enjoys woodworking, bee keeping and cooking.



The Docs'

DR. AMANDA C. PAWLEY

Every day, doctors around the world courageously dedicate their lives to conquering medical hurdles. For Dr. Amanda Clare Pawley, spending four months at Mount Everest's base camp tending to climbers, trekkers and locals – without the aid of technology or electricity – was the ultimate test of her ability.

"It was interesting from a medical standpoint," explains Amanda, recalling the days when a typical night's sleep involved a sleeping bag in a small hut 16,000 feet above the ground. And a typical day on the job included nothing more than a medical kit and a fold-up bed. "You couldn't rely on anything but yourself."

Amanda always dreamed of seeing Everest, "It was on my bucket list," she says proudly. As a natural athlete, who was born to be outdoors, she jumped at the opportunity in the spring of 2000 to visit one of nature's greatest marvels.

Shortly after her medical residency, which she completed through the University of Calgary in 1998, Amanda headed to the Himalayas in Asia to work as a volunteer doctor on behalf of the Himalayan Rescue Association of Nepal (HRA).

For the next four months, she and another female doctor from Colorado would serve as the only doctors on the mountain with the exception of individual climbers who brought private physicians. However, Amanda says that the majority of climbers, trekkers and locals relied on her and her co-doctor to tend to their medical needs.

On top of the added pressure of having to treat high-risk explorers, Amanda also held the responsibility of caring for the local mountaineers or Himalayan natives, known as 'Sherpas,' a group who otherwise went without access to medical experts.

In addition to the high volume of patients, gone were the modern conveniences Amanda was used to. Without the ability to run blood checks or other, often necessary, medical tests, she and her fellow colleague relied solely on a "device to check oxygen" and a "Gamow bag," which is literally a bag used to mimic ground-level air, Amanda explains.

And at such high altitudes – according to the HRA, Everest's base camp is 1000 metres higher than the highest point in Europe – the Gamow bag was a necessity.

Amanda says it was not uncommon for climbers and trekkers to experience trouble breathing. Because of the extreme altitude and the lack of oxygen in the air, "the brain swells" or "the lungs can fill with fluid,"



Dr. Amanda Pawley, 2010

she explains.

In such a scenario, the Gamow bag would be pumped with air and explorers, who were unable to breathe, would spend the night in the bag until they had enough energy to trek down to ground level. And with the thin air making it highly unlikely and extremely dangerous for a helicopter to fly to the base camp, the Gamow bag was often the only solution for wounded or sick explorers.

Amanda adds that it was not the most comfortable experience, "It's very claustrophobic," but, in times of desperation, "People were willing to do whatever it took."

Today, Amanda's days working on the world's grandest mountain are a distant memory. And while Port Perry certainly boasts its own unique scenery, it's certainly a far cry from the extreme nature of Everest!

But Amanda says she wouldn't have it any other way. The small-town charm of Port Perry was the perfect environment for Amanda to focus her energy on more family time in addition to her work as a family practitioner. "It's beautifully set up here," she explains. "Port Perry allows me to provide service in a way that works with the realities of my life now."

While she always aspired to be a doctor, Amanda was initially drawn to a different kind of clientele. "I loved animals so I wanted to be a veterinarian," she says. However, tending to her university boyfriend, who at the time was sick in the hospital and requiring surgery, changed her vocation. "The doctor was not communicating well with us at all, I thought I could do better than this!" she says.

Amanda went on to complete her undergraduate degree in Life Sciences, her masters in Pharmacology (medicine research) and her MD in 1996 at Queens University. All the while, Amanda says she knew her ultimate goal was to become a family doctor, "I wanted to know my patients and I wanted the freedom to do different types of medicine," she explains.

Having grown up in Quebec and enjoying the variety of extreme sports, like downhill skiing and mountaineering, that the landscape allowed for, Amanda says the opportunity to work in Calgary, Alberta, was even more enticing.

Before Amanda, her husband Danny and her two children came to settle in Port Perry, Amanda spent nine years in Calgary completing her medical residency and opening up her first practice with another doctor.

She jokes that she initially came to Calgary with the prospects of finding herself a cowboy, but

settled for her husband who was a "mountain boy." After meeting through mutual friends, the two were married and had two children while residing in Calgary for nine years. In 2007, the family moved to Port Perry.

Amanda says, upon her arrival, she headed straight to the Medical Associates of Port Perry in hopes of joining the acclaimed team of 'docs.' "I literally showed up one day and said, 'Hello, I want to work here,'" she says with a laugh.

Fortunately, Amanda found her place among the Medical Associates of Port Perry and she is more than pleased with the work ethic and environment she (literally) walked into. "It's such a large and cohesive group," she says. "But it enables me to do a lot of different things and I always know if there's an issue, my patients are in good hands."

Amanda says the "multi-generational" nature of her work is also huge draw. Working with children, their parents and their grandparents, she explains, is one of the greatest aspects of working in family medicine, "I love getting to know people and their stories," she says.

After all, focusing on family is of utmost importance for Amanda. While she loves working in the hospital, in urgent care and in surgery, Amanda's true happiness comes from spending time with her family. And with a new boat, a day on the lake with her husband, eight year old son and six year old daughter is her idea of heaven on earth.

And even though her days of mountaineering may be over, Amanda still enjoys being active. This past June she completed her first triathlon in Guelph and back in October she ran the Victoria Marathon. "Running is my therapy," she explains. "A lot of things you can't shut off," Amanda says, referring to the hardships she has to face on a daily basis in her line of work. "So I go for a run to relax."

While it goes without saying that doctors must endure unavoidable stress in their practice, Amanda insists the team of Port Perry 'docs' makes the job all the more enjoyable. "It's so nice to see specialists face to face," she says, referring to the difference between city and rural practice. "In Calgary I could only work in one area (of medicine)," she adds. "Here it's varied medicine. There's a wide range of areas we get to work in."

Though Port Perry may pale in comparison to the extreme mountains in Quebec, Calgary and the Himalayas, Amanda and her family are more than satisfied with their new home.

"It's such a welcoming town," Amanda insists. "It is such an easy place to settle in. We love it here."

*By Christina Coughlin
Reprinted with permission,
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The Docs'

DR. FARAH NASSER-SHARIF



Dr. Farah Nasser-Sharif, 2015.

Dr. Farah Nasser-Sharif began her medical career in Scugog Township on August 3, 2003, when she officially opened an office in the Medical Associates of Port Perry building on Paxton Street. As an internal medicine specialist her four-day work week is spent mostly at the clinic where she deals with patients only on a referral basis.

Dr. Nasser-Sharif is a native of Winnipeg and received her B.Sc. from the University of Manitoba. She then went on to complete her Doctor of Medicine and Internal Medicine residency at the University of Toronto, graduating in June 2003.

In early 2003 Dr. Nasser-Sharif began to seriously consider Port Perry as a career option, after speaking with other doctors here, including a close friend. She was looking to get out of the big city and into a more friendly and picturesque environment where she could ride her mountain bike and be outdoors.

She was extremely anxious to come to Port Perry because her new colleagues were eager to assist her in setting up the services she felt were needed in the community. She was impressed with the doctors in Port Perry and also with the staff and Lakeridge Health Corporation.

Dr. Farah Nasser-Sharif is a specialist in Internal Medicine. She treats patients with more severe and complicated medical conditions, which helps eliminate some of the need for people to travel to larger centres for care. Her main interest being heart disease and cardiovascular risk reduction.

She provides services in Internal Medicine to Lakeridge Health Port Perry, and she provides services through her office which include Holter monitoring, two-week loop monitoring, spirometry, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, and stress testing.

Using new equipment purchased by the Port Perry Hospital Foundation, a stress lab was set up in Dr. Nasser-Sharif's office which is used by patients who require testing of their heart and lung capacity. The equipment, says Dr. Nasser-Sharif, helped doctors diagnose cardiac diseases easier and assists in other heart tests. She is a Fellow of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Nasser-Sharif died tragically on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at home, at age 47. She will be remembered for her research work, interest in heart disease and her love for sailing, travel, music and dogs.



The Docs'

DR. MARTIN STEWART

Ten years ago, along a road traveled in family medicine and with a fresh residency completed in surgery, Dr. Martin Stewart did what many people in Port Perry would have thought impossible; he replaced the revered Dr. Bill Cohoon, a much loved, respected, and admired doctor/surgeon.

It is difficult to replace an icon but Dr. Stewart has done so admirably, bringing to his position as a physician/surgeon at the Port Perry Medical Centre, a unique set of skills and expertise, and most of all, a passion for his work and his patients.

The road to Port Perry started for Dr. Stewart in Peterborough where he is initially from. He studied Family Medicine at Queens University and did his graduate work at the University of Toronto.

It was as a resident there in 1991 that Dr. Stewart got his first introduction to Port Perry by taking a rural elective and working at the Medical Associates for two months.

He recalls, "I loved the experience. I was in awe of Dr. Cohoon and something in me just resonated with the whole way medicine was practiced in this town. The integrated way the staff and physicians worked was very attractive to me."

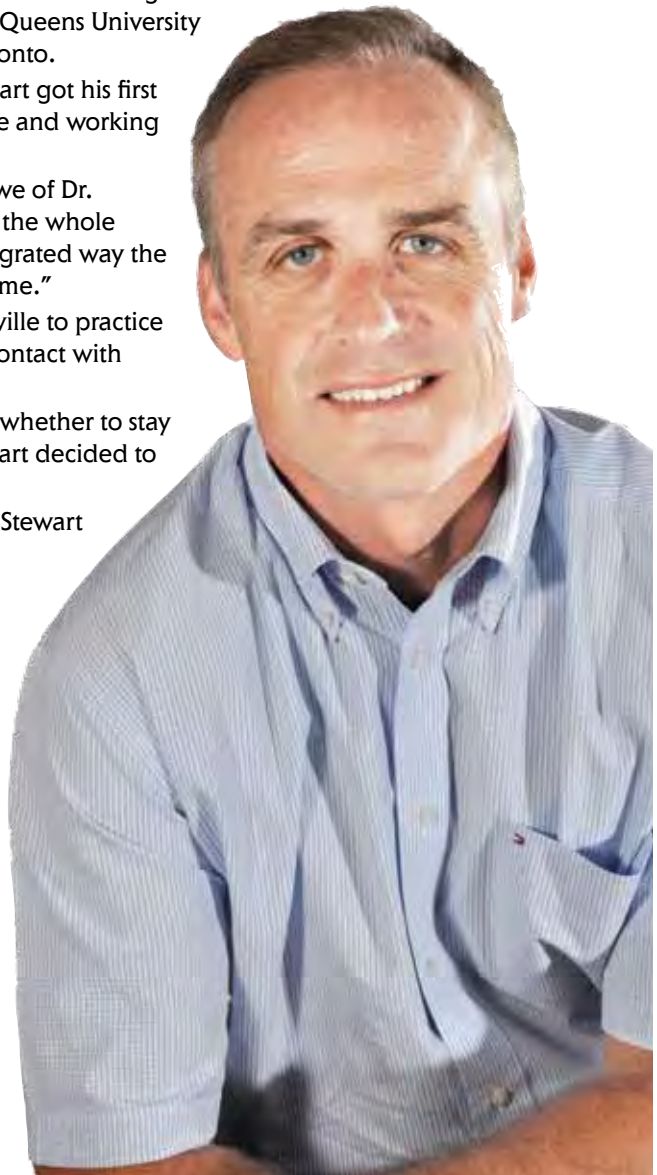
After graduating, Dr. Stewart went on to Oakville to practice medicine for the next eight years but he kept in contact with some of the doctors from Port Perry.

In 1998, after struggling with a decision as to whether to stay in family medicine or become a surgeon, Dr. Stewart decided to go back to school and specialize in surgery.

During his four years retraining in surgery Dr. Stewart again took an elective and came to Port Perry for one month, and found he enjoyed doing general surgery in familiar surroundings. He remembers, "It was great to reconnect with the Port Perry group of doctors. I loved the experience of general surgery and I particularly liked working with Bill Cohoon again. I have to say that working with Bill was a career changing experience."

Dr. Stewart began to think that Port Perry would be a good place to practice surgery. "The completion of my training coincided with Dr. Cohoon's desire to retire," he said. "I liked the town, I liked the group of doctors I would be joining and I got very excited about practicing both family medicine and surgery in such an integrated, professional environment".

He continued, "I inherited Dr. Cohoon's patients and made what I think was a fairly smooth transition to family medicine and surgery in Port Perry."



Dr. Stewart Martin, 2012

Dr. Stewart's takeover of Dr. Cohoon's practice created a rare and rewarding situation for Dr. Stewart. Years ago, a doctor/surgeon mix was not unheard of. In this day and age of specialization and more finely tuned standards, it is unusual to find a surgeon who also functions as a family doctor.

Dr. Stewart explained, "In the beginning it was a necessity. Having Dr. Cohoon's family medicine patients was a good balance for me; it was a way to cope with the intensity of surgery".

However, as time went by, he began to really appreciate the joy with the type of practice he had taken over and was building.

"It's uncommon for a surgeon to keep up a family practice and although mine is only about fifteen percent of my work I feel it is immensely important. It has taught me that you have to listen to people and I believe it has given me the best of both worlds," he says.

Dr. Stewart and his two surgical colleagues are general surgeons, all trained in all basic 'core surgical' procedures, including caesarean sections and some cancer surgery operations – mainly breast and colorectal cancer.

The fact that cancer surgery can be performed in Port Perry comes as a surprise to some patients, who presume once cancer has been detected, the patient will be transferred to the oncology department in Oshawa.

Dr. Stewart explains, "As a surgeon, and part of a three-hospital health unit, I work closely with colleagues in Oshawa to manage oncological patients. What is very special to me is that I can follow a patient of mine through some very difficult times because of the cancer surgeries they require – with certain kinds of cancer I can be with them every step of the way."

"We are lucky being in a smaller town. The breadth of surgical practice here in Port Perry is much greater and larger in scope than it would be if I was in a large city," he says.

Dr. Stewart cannot say enough good things about the incredible integration and collaboration that exists amongst the doctors and surgeons at the medical centre and the hospital.

He explained that they routinely assist each other on difficult surgical cases and there is a great deal of sharing. At the same time it is very respectful and professional.

Dr. Stewart strives to keep his life in balance. He and his wife Adrienne and four children value their time together and he really lights up when he talks about coaching his children in the various sports they play.

On a personal level he enjoys both golf and

hockey and four years ago he began competing in triathlons. He tries to find the time to fit in as much as he possibly can, all the while enjoying all Port Perry has to offer.

When asked how he would describe himself, Dr. Stewart commented that he found it difficult to talk about himself, but after some resistance and urging, he said, "Well, I would like to think I am approachable. I like to do things well and would say I am driven and passionate; I hope in a good way."

On the subjects of patients and surgery Dr. Stewart was indeed passionate. He thrives on looking after people, seeing them through difficult times, listening to their concerns, finding solutions to problems.

Dr. Stewart thinks that being a family doctor has made him a better surgeon. "The balance of family doctor and surgeon has been very good for me. I appreciate the strong relationships it has brought me. I think it has matured me as a person and helped to shape me. All in all I feel it has made me more well rounded."

Although reticent to talk about himself and his accomplishments, Dr. Stewart was able to define what makes his work here so fulfilling.

*By Marjorie Fleming
Reprinted with permission,
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Dr. Martin Stewart, 2010.



The Docs'

DR. SUSAN E. SHEPHERD

Dr. Susan Elizabeth Shepherd is a native of Brampton, Ontario, born on September 13, 1970. Her parents are Robert and Rosemary Shepherd and she is the oldest of four children.

Susan attended elementary and high school in Brampton and it was while attending high school she set her sights on becoming a doctor. She met her husband Robert James Steele while attending high school and they were married on July 22, 1995 at The Doctor's House in Kleinburg. They have twin children, Rachel and Nathan.

After graduating from high school, Susan enrolled at McMaster University, Hamilton, where she graduated with and Honours Biology. She then attended the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, with a one month placement at Medical Associates in 1998.

Enjoying her experience in Port Perry after she graduated in June 1999, she returned for the final month of residency and then joined the Medical Associates team of doctors.

Dr. Shepherd and her husband Rob immediately moved to Port Perry and she started her Family Practice at Medical Associates of Port Perry in July 1999. Twins were born to the couple two years later, in May 2001.

She currently works out of her office, and the Urgent Care clinic at Medical Associates. She also works at Lakeridge Health, Port Perry in the Emergency Department, provides hospital care for her admitted patients and assists in the Operating Room. Susan also provided obstetric care for the first 12 years of her practice.

Although busy with her medical practice, Dr. Shepherd is also actively involved in teaching medical students and residents in all parts of her practice. She has also takes part in Medical Missions with a Ghana Health Team.

When not at work or volunteering her time she enjoys yoga, meditation, crocheting and spending time with her family at the cottage.



Dr. Susan E. Shepherd



The Docs'

DR. BRIAN L. B. TSE

Dr. Brian Ling Bong Tse (pronounced 'see') is one of a new crop of young physicians to have settled in Port Perry recently to begin a career in medicine.

When asked about his decision to become a doctor, even he admits, "sometimes I wonder." But on thinking about it, he says it was probably "positive experiences with my own doctor growing up," that led him in that direction.

Showing a sense of humour, Dr. Tse candidly confesses, "I was too clumsy to work with my hands, wasn't creative enough to pursue the arts, and just didn't understand politics and business!"

Having been born and raised in Markham and North York, it's not surprising that the University of Toronto would be his choice for further schooling. After graduating he attended the University of Western Ontario and then returned to Toronto for his internship.

It was during his internship that Dr. Tse first came to Port Perry as part of the Internship in Family Medicine program.

"The U of T has a sort of hybrid 'rural' Family Medicine program, with the first year spent at a community hospital in Toronto - East York, for me - and the second year entirely in an affiliated community", he explains. Port Perry being one of those communities.

It wasn't long into his year of interning in Port Perry that Dr. Tse began to understand the advantages of practicing in a small, rural community.

"I got the sense, which everyone likely does when they come here, of warmth, camaraderie, support, pleasantness, combined with good people and beautiful scenery. It's not everywhere you can find such a conglomerate of positives," he says with his trademark smile.

Having only been in Port Perry



Dr. Brian Tse, 2012

since July 2011, Dr. Tse has yet to get a handle on what attracted him back to Port Perry after his graduation, but speculates it was the friendly and easy-going style of life and the many opportunities for activities and the outdoors.

And when it comes to his free time – when he’s not in his office treating patients – Dr. Tse enjoys a host of other sporting activities, including soccer, tennis/badminton, softball, skiing/snowboarding, rock-climbing, hiking, golf and anything else physical.

He also admits to being a “Leafs” fan and said if they were playing better, he’d probably enjoy watching them more!

Living and working in a small community can have both its advantages and disadvantages but Dr. Tse takes it all in stride. He finds that the residents of the community are generally respectful of his privacy and personal time.

He finds that practicing in a smaller medical group/hospital provides a wider variety of opportunities.

He explains, “in a larger center, there is usually more specialization of service; whereas here, the family doctors work in the hospital, see patients who are admitted, do deliveries, etc. Also, everything is close by, people seem friendlier, there is a greater sense of community, and there is less traffic”.

And if there is a disadvantage, he feels it would be less on-site access to resources, such as a CT scan, intensive care unit, and specialists, such as orthopedic surgeons.

Like all doctors, balancing his workload with his personal life – he’s single but has a girlfriend – is not always easy.

“I find this a constant struggle, but it helps to have such supportive and understanding family and colleagues” he says. “One of the many great things about the group (Medical Associates of Port Perry), is that everyone tries to help each other out, and ensure we all get time off unimpeded for family time and obligations”.

So as he begins his career in medicine, Dr. Tse looks ahead with anticipation – hoping that he can make positive changes in the lives his patients – the same as his pediatrician did for him while he was growing up.

Dr. Brain Tse is now accepting names on a waiting list for new patients at his office.

*By J. Peter Hvidsten
Reprinted with permission,
May 2012 issue, Focus on Scugog*

Dr. James Tuck



Dr. James Tuck

Dr. James (Jim) Alexander Tuck graduated from Memorial University Hospital in Newfoundland in 1990 and received his Independent Practice Certificate in January 1992.

Dr. Tuck is a member of the Medical Associates of Port Perry group and practices from its 462 Paxton Street clinic.

Dr. Antonietta Chiella

Dr. Antonietta Chiella completed a B.Sc at the University of Toronto and her MD and CCFP at the University of Western Ontario.

She took post-graduate courses in Internal Medicine and Family Medicine and has a strong interest in health promotion and women’s health.

Dr. Chiella practiced in Toronto for three years before joining the Medical Associates group in Port Perry in April 2008.

She currently (2018) runs a family medicine practice including clinic, urgent care, inpatient hospital care, OR assist and is a consultant on the Durham North Palliative Care Team.



The Docs'

DR. JESSICA N. ROSS

There was never any doubt in Dr. Jessica Ross' mind that she would set up her practice in Port Perry when she graduated in 2011.

"Port Perry is actually home for me," she said, explaining that her family moved to town when she was young and she graduated from Port Perry High School.

Now married to the man she met during undergraduate studies at the University of Guelph, they enjoy life with a bustling toddler in their Scugog Island home.

"It had always been our plan to return to Port to work, live and start our family," she explained, and with a number of close friends in town and her parents living near the hospital, where she occasionally escapes for a lunch break, working in her old home town is a perfect fit.

Dr. Ross says her decision to enter medicine was a culmination of a number of experiences and the influence of a number of people.

One such mentor was Dr. Merrilee Brown, her family physician when she was growing up. "She is a stellar physician and woman, and she was a great influence on me throughout my schooling."

Her journey to Port Perry was a long, winding, globe-trotting path. After completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Guelph she decided some adventure was in order, so along with her husband they travelled across the world to Adelaide, Australia where she attended medical school at Flinders University of South Australia.

"During one of my clinical training years, I also spent several months on an obstetric and paediatric exchange at St. George's University in London, England," she said.



Dr. Jessica Ross, 2012

Following medical school she returned to Canada and completed her residency training at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto.

In addition to her family practice at Medical Associates of Port Perry, this busy young doctor also works in the ER both in Port Perry and Oshawa.

"I find that it's a wonderful mix from paediatrics and women's health to geriatrics; the adrenaline and acuity of the ER is a nice complement to forming long-term relationships with patients and caring for their health through prevention and day-to-day illness experiences," she says.

While some new physicians may find working in a small town difficult, Dr. Ross welcomes the change from working in the city.

"It is not only nice to see patients in a relaxed, social setting - I find that it also allows you to better understand and treat patients as you can see their health and illness in the context of the lives that they live."

When asked, when she has time what other interests she has she candidly states, "I rarely find a spare moment."

"To be completely honest, I consider myself lucky if I arrive at work in the morning without sticky finger food art and muddy dog prints on my clothes, and to escape at the end of the workday without an avalanche of paperwork behind me. "

And with her husband working shifts, time together is at a premium so they just love just spending time together with family and friends, cooking and being outdoors as much as possible.

Now settled in a quaint farmhouse on the Island, she feels content being able to live in the country, and only minutes from work, play and the water. "We enjoy all that the town has to offer," she admits.

Dr. Ross credits the welcoming and collegial group of physicians who practice here as her main draw to setting up practice in Port Perry. She says the group forms a wonderful dynamic, and everyone is very eager to teach, learn and work together in the best interest of our patients.

Dr. Jessica Ross is now accepting new patients. Names will be placed on a waiting list, then contacted for an introductory appointment.

Dr. Jessica Ross profile at Medical Associates

Dr. Jessica Nicole Ross practices Family and Emergency Medicine in Port Perry.

She is Port Perry Hospital's Physician Lead in Emergency Medicine, Quality Improvement and Professional Practice. Dr. Ross is also a Clinical Lecturer with the University of Toronto and teaches both medical students and resident physicians.

Dr. Ross lives with her triathlete husband who is also a full-time Dad. Together, they raise their two school-aged boys. Her youngest boy dreams of joining his mum in practicing medicine. Her eldest hopes to follow in the footsteps of fellow Canadian, Chris Hadfield.



June 2018



The Docs'

DR. AMITA DAYAL

Teamwork with her stay-at-home husband Dave enables Dr. Amita Dayal to balance her professional responsibilities with family life.

When she was nursing their babies, Dave would bring them to the office during her break. On family practice days, she says she's the first one out of the parking lot after her last patient at 5 p.m., so she can go home to her family. She totes along her laptop and piles of paperwork to tackle after their evening schedule of dinner, bath, playtime and bedtime stories.

Since Dr. Dayal started practicing medicine in Port Perry in July of 2005, she has had two children. Talia is going to be five on Dec. 27, 2012, and Nyan is 18 months old. Both were born at the beautiful New Life Centre at Port Perry Hospital. When the kids were younger, it was "quite hectic."

"We started renovating our home in July of 2010 when I was pregnant with Nyan," she recalled. "It was a crazy time. One day there were even raccoons in the kitchen."

But the disruptions were worth it, she said, and now Dave is just putting some of the finishing touches on the addition to their dream home on one acre of land with scenic trees and a ravine, just on the outskirts of town.

"It's like nature in the city," Dr. Dayal enthused.

Small town life suits the whole family. Dave likes to hunt, fish, ice fish and play hockey and baseball, making Scugog township an ideal place to be. The children are happy at the local Montessori school, and Talia takes dance lessons. Dr. Dayal enjoys yoga and just joined a book club. She manages to read a book a week. Their friends live right in Scugog or in nearby towns in Durham Region, making visiting convenient.

Asked what a typical day is like, Dr. Dayal pointed out that, "Every day is different."

Sometimes, she has the midnight to 8 a.m. shift at the emergency department of the hospital. That's good from the point of view that her children are asleep at that time so they don't miss her, she noted. Other days she spends the majority of the day in her office, and she appreciates her role of a family doctor offering patients continued care. Then there's the morning rounds and the inpatients at the hospital to tend to.

Scheduling time to sleep can be a challenge, but Dr. Dayal doesn't have to worry about meals. Her husband is



Dr. Amita Dayal, 2012

“a really good cook” and there is always a great dinner ready for the family. Lunch is often from the kiosk at the medical centre, and she likes to “graze.” Her favourite snack is plain M&Ms. She doesn’t smoke or drink, and the only supplement she takes is Vitamin D. A petite 35 –year-old, Dr. Dayal describes herself as “a healthy person.”

As a resident, she worked at the Community Nursing Home in Port Perry through the University of Toronto’s Rural Residency Program in Family Medicine. Now she doctors there, and residents from the same program are training under her. Teaching is another one of her passions.

Dr. Dayal is “very excited” about the expanded Medical Associates facility, which has a new teaching room. The new Family Health Team will offer services ranging from psychologists to social workers to chiropractors.

As a child, she had a quest for knowledge. She admits that she “always had her nose in a book, and loved school.” A native of Scarborough, she started her post secondary education at Toronto’s York University. After earning her BSc in Biology, she spent four years at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario.

When Amita and her sister Sonia were growing up, their parents spoke of “when you go to University” not “if you go to University.”

“It was expected,” said Dr. Dayal, whose mother was a teacher from England, and her Dad was an engineer from India. Both came to Canada where “there are a lot of opportunities.”

Her Dad encouraged her to pursue her interest in medicine.

Dr. Dayal still has the little Fisher Price medical kit she received as a gift as a child, and her own children play with it now.

“It was a classic,” she commented. “Better than the ones they make today.”

It was during the second year of her two -year residency program in Port Perry that Dr. Dayal decided that this would be the perfect place to establish her medical practice and raise a family.

She enjoys the small town atmosphere, and people saying “Hello” to her while she is shopping at the local stores or taking the children to Swimkids or birthday parties.

“Through your kids, you meet lots of friends,” Dr. Dayal said. “It gets you out into the community.”

Her first local volunteer position is serving as a board member of the new non-profit initiative “Baby Love”. Started by Dr. Dayal’s friend Trynee Hancock, the goal of “Baby Love” is to provide diapers to families in need.

Dr. Dayal completed the 60k Breast Cancer Walk in 2004, and now she is teaching herself how to run a 5k marathon using her iPhone as her coach.

She was wondering out loud if she should go out for a run after the interview, or go to visit her hospital patients first, when her pager went off, and the decision was made. Somehow, this amazing lady fits it all in.

“I like the variety,” Dr. Dayal commented about her lifestyle.

*By Lynn Campbell
Reprinted with permission,
December 2012 issue, Focus on Scugog*

Dr. Amita Dayal is a family physician who started post secondary education at York University in Toronto. She received her BSc degree in Biology then spent four years in London, Ontario at the University of Western Ontario at the Faculty of Medicine. After graduating medical school in 2003 she entered the University of Toronto’s Rural Residency program in Family Medicine. She spent the second year of the two year program in Port Perry and after receiving her certification of Family Medicine decided to start her practice (and her family) here.

Dr. Dayal currently spends one day a week at the clinic in Sunderland. She also works in the Port Perry Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinic. Dr. Dayal takes care of her own patients when they are admitted in the Port Perry Hospital and assists the surgeons in the Operating Room periodically. The rest of her time is spent in her family practice clinic at Medical Associates. Part of Dr. Dayal’s practice is dedicated to pre-natal care, obstetrical care and well baby care. She delivers babies at the New Life Centre and takes part in the obstetrics call schedule. She is also involved in the teaching program that involves family medicine residents and occasionally medical students.



The Docs'

DR. MATTHEW J. SCHURTER

Time certainly flies, especially in the life of a busy doctor. When I met recently with Dr. Matthew James Schurter he found it hard to believe he has been in Port Perry for more than three years now – he and his wife Nermeen arrived in November of 2008.

Dr. Schurter and Nermeen recently welcomed baby Zayd into their lives, 12 weeks ago from our meeting, so Zayd had the opportunity to quietly listen as his father retraced the steps that led from Listowel, Ont., where his dad was born, through many years of school, work and travel to a home and bustling medical practice in Port Perry and at the Sunderland Medical Centre.

Dr. Schurter's path to Port Perry involved countless moves and locations. He left his home town of Listowel to attend Queen's University, Kingston, where he completed a BSc(Hon) in life sciences and then through four years of medical school.

When asked why he chose medicine, as both of his parents were teachers, Dr. Schurter replied, "I came to realize that medicine suited me because of my nature, and I especially liked interacting with patients."

He took his residency in Family Medicine at the University of Ottawa and residency in FP-Anesthesia at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine in Sudbury.

Dr. Schurter developed a special interest in the study of anesthetics and the love of travel throughout his educational journey. He became exposed to many different facets of medicine but found himself particularly interested in anesthesia.

During clerkship he got into clinical settings for practical medicine taking his elective in Calgary for anesthesiology, then Vancouver to practice emergency and on to St. John's, Nova Scotia for dermatology. Next he travelled more than 2,300 km north to Nunavut to practice family medicine and then on to Montreal for obstetrics.

The years of school and residency's took him all over Ontario but Kingston was special because he met his wife Nermeen there.

After practicing as a locum in several towns in Ontario, Dr. Schurter and his wife chose Port Perry as a permanent location. "I liked the town and the group of doctor's I met, and for us the proximity to family in Toronto, Listowel and Kingston was really important."



Dr. Matthew Schurter, 2012

The town of Sunderland was underserved so Dr. Schurter started his family medicine practice there, where he practices twice a week. That gives him two days a week to provide anesthetic and emergency room services at Lakeridge Health Port Perry. Add to this a couple of clinics a month at the Medical Associates Clinic, patient consults and a few shifts a month in emergency and Dr. Schurter's time is well filled.

From a small town himself, Dr. Schurter finds getting to know his Sunderland patients and treating them on an ongoing basis very rewarding. He is in a position where he can offer continued support for a long time to come.

In his capacity with anesthetic services, Dr. Schurter finds the Lakeridge team very collaborative. Although a small team they have excellent communication skills, are continually implementing learned techniques and strive constantly to modernize patient care. The team has recently introduced a portable ultrasound machine which has already made a difference.

Dr. Schurter is amazed at the generosity of the community. He adds, "Many communities cannot boast of the kind of generosity that Scugog Township displays. The ability to be able to purchase these kinds of things through fund raising is incredible."

Dr. Schurter's interest in travel and international medicine led to an instant rapport with Dr. Tony Brown, who has been instrumental in giving his time and medical expertise in underserved areas such as Central America and Haiti.

During Dr. Schurter's earlier years in residency he travelled to India with the Himalayan Health Exchange to set up a clinic and later to Panama as a resident for three weeks. It was during this period that he undertook a one month elective in tropical medicine.

With a common love for travel medicine, both Dr. Brown and Dr. Schurter have started a small interest group which shares experiences that have resulted from their travels.

About a year ago Dr. Schurter took his love of travel and blended it into his practice. His patients can book a travel advice appointment before they go away on a trip.

He explains, "Some people are not well traveled and have varied concerns. Is the water safe and what will the food be like are very common questions?"

"Others want to know what vaccines and shots are required and what infections can be contacted. Many people fear the unknown and want as much information as possible. What we try to do is educate so that we can reduce the risk of people getting sick," he says.

When Dr. Schurter isn't at the Sunderland Medical Centre, the Medical Associates of Port Perry, or the hospital, he indulges in hockey and soccer, lots of walks with his family, taking part in community events and he likes playing the piano – he stresses the word 'play' and says his efforts are strictly recreational.

This busy doctor strives to keep balance in his life but will continue to learn and educate both himself and his patients. He wants to get more involved in palliative care and sees in the future trying to provide more care in the home than the hospital. His belief is people and their families are happier at home.

Sometime in the future Dr. Schurter would like to do a medial trip abroad. He has a great desire for learning so he imagines a trip that would focus on education and have some longevity to it.

He suggests "I want to do something more lasting, something that when I walk away, a real change will occur. For example, there is a group of doctor's who go to Africa to do hernia repairs. That is the type of medical work I envision doing."

For now, Dr. Schurter will continue full steam ahead, his plate full, but balanced. Along with his wife and new son, he will give to his community in as many ways as he can but he will also take time to stop and smell the roses and enjoy what his community has to offer.

*By Marjorie Fleming
Reprinted with permission,
December 2012 issue, Focus on Scugog*

More Physicians & Surgeons practicing at Medical Associates in 2018*

Dr. Fahim Husayn Ali

Dr. A. Bruno

Dr. Sonya Cull

Dr. Pamela Dyall

Dr. Andrea Gauster

Dr. Curtis Hadden

Dr. John Hoey

Dr. Sandra Hyshka

Dr. Joseph Moran

Dr. Hong Chau Nguyen

Dr. Megha Suri

Dr. David Wang

Dr. Christopher Westbrook

Dr. Rebecca Susanne Wray

* Profile information for the above doctors was not provided in time for this publication.



Top, south west sides of Medical Associates building. Above, cafeteria and lounge for visitors and patients.



The Docs'

of CARTWRIGHT TOWNSHIP

Dr. Francis William Howe

The first doctor to practice in Cartwright starting in 1852, from an office he set up in the small frame house he built at 3472 Church Street. Dr. Howe served as Reeve of Cartwright Township from 1855 to 1859 and often held council meetings in his home. Dr. Francis W. Howe died in Williamsburg (Blackstock) in 1859 and was buried at St. John's Anglican Cemetery.

Dr. Gordon James Emery

Dr. James Emery graduated from McGill University in 1857 and practiced with Dr. Francis W. Howe until Dr. Howe's untimely death in 1859. Dr. Emery assumed the practice of Dr. Howe, working from the Howe home office until about 1866 when he left Williamsburg.



Dr. John Montgomery

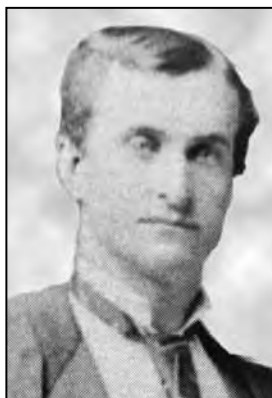
Dr. John Montgomery

Dr. John Montgomery was a graduate of the University of Toronto, and he began his medical practice in Williamsburg in 1868. One year later he purchased a portion of Mrs. Howe's lot and an adjoining parcel of land.

It was on this lot at 3479 Church Street, that he built a magnificent brick home which became known as the "Medical Hall." Dr. Montgomery's new home also served as his office with an operating and recovery room upstairs.

Dr. Montgomery had established a very successful practice by 1875, but wishing to upgrade his skills, he travelled to Edinburgh, Scotland, for post-graduate studies.

A year later, upon his return to Williamsburg, the community celebrated his return, giving him a welcome home supper at Bryan's Hotel, hosted by the Reeve Robert B. Spinks and officials of the township. In 1882, Dr. Montgomery sold the Medical Hall to Dr. Aaron J. Campbell and moved to Ardoch, North Dakota.



Dr. A.J. Campbell

Dr. Aaron J. Campbell

Dr. Aaron Jessie Campbell purchased the Medical Hall from Dr. Montgomery in 1882 when he moved from Williamsburg, and practiced medicine in the community until 1888 when he sold his practice and the Medical Hall to Dr. Fish.



Dr. Montgomery's "Medical Hall" in Williamsburg.



Dr. William A. Fish

Dr. William Ambrose Fish

Dr. William A. Fish was born in Kingston Ontario in 1865. He graduated from the Trinity Medical School in Toronto in 1887 and opened a practice of medicine in Williamsburg later that year. Not long after opening his practice, an opportunity came along to purchase the well established and respected "Medical Hall."

Dr. Fish purchased the medical hall in November 1888 and from this location operated his medical practice for 13 years, when he retired in 1901 and sold the elegant home and medical office to Dr. John McCulloch.

Dr. W.A. Fish moved to England for post graduate studies and when he returned he married Ada Bell Clark on September 18, 1906 in York (Toronto) Ontario.

He died on August 13, 1929, in Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 64.

Dr. John McCulloch

John McCulloch was born in Carlington, Ontario in 1872. He attended school, graduating with a medical degree, and opened a practice. He purchased the Medical Hall in Blackstock from Dr. Fish in 1901 but only and practiced medicine in Blackstock for five years, until 1906. He also served as medical Officer of Health from 1903 to 1904

It was while living in Blackstock that he met Sarah Jane McFadyen of Brock Township. John and Sarah were married in Port Perry on October 15, 1902.

Dr. McCulloch was living in Lindsay, Ontario when he enlisted in the army being assigned to the 45th Victoria Regiment. Lt. Col. Dr. John McCulloch died on October 6, 1926, from an illness related to his service during WWI. He was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Lindsay, Ontario.



Dr. John McCullough

Dr. Robert Burrows Harris

Robert Burrows Harris was born and raised in Charlottetown, P.E.I, the son of the late Rev. John and Mrs. Harris and moved with them to Ontario, where he spent his early life in numerous small communities as the son of a methodist minister.

As a young man, he decided to become a doctor. He graduated from the University of Toronto in the early 1900s, and first hung out his shingle at Blackstock, Ontario. In 1906 he purchased the Medical Hall from Dr. John McCulloch.



Dr. Robert Harris

Later, Dr. Harris moved to the north where he provided medical care at a number of lumber camps in the Blind River area. He next became a physician on the medical staff of the International Nickel Company, and moved to Copper Cliff in February 1911. Except for service in the first World War, he remained until his retirement thirty-five years later. During the war, he served with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps in England, France, Belgium, and Germany.

Dr. Harris was in his 70th year when stricken with coronary thrombosis while recuperating from an operation in Toronto General Hospital. Heartfelt grief was felt throughout the Copper Cliff area where he was so well known as physician and friend.

Dr. Harris was never married, and his ashes are buried in the family plot in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert. His two sisters, Morwenna and Eunice were both teachers in Port Perry, and his nephew, Tom Harris, was a well known local lawyer.



Dr. D. McArthur

Dr. Archibald Duncan McArthur

Archibald Duncan McArthur was born November 5, 1879, at Greenbank, Ontario, a son of Neil and Mary (Watson) McArthur, of Scottish descent. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1907 and began his practice in the village of Blackstock, purchasing the Medical Hall on July 11, 1908, from Dr. R.B. Harris.

Dr. A.D. McArthur was a school trustee and was influential in establishing the Blackstock Continuation School. He also was a member of the Loyal Orange Lodge #133, Blackstock and held several offices in this Lodge.

In 1919 Dr. A.D. McArthur was joined by his brother, Dr. John A. McArthur. This was during the time of the influenza epidemic, and the services of both doctors were required to administer to the many sick in the community.

Dr. A.D. was married on September 6, 1925, to Minnie Harriet Burford of Toronto. Minnie was the first and top graduate from the University of Toronto in Public Health Nursing.

After his marriage in 1925, Dr. A.D. McArthur left his practice in Blackstock and moved to Toronto where he practiced medicine until his death on September 20, 1950. His wife Minnie died in 1973. Dr. A.D. and Minnie are buried in Greenbank Cemetery.

Dr. John Alexander McArthur

John Alexander McArthur was born June 30, 1889, at Greenbank. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Ontario, London, in 1914, then enlisted in the Canadian Army. He interned at Western Hospital and served at Burwash and the Ontario Hospital, all in Toronto, and practised for a short time at Janetville in Manvers Township.

In 1919, he joined his brother, Dr. Archibald Duncan McArthur, at Blackstock. When his brother moved to Toronto in 1925, Dr. John Archibald took over the Medical Hall and continued his medical practice there until his death.

In 1927, he was appointed Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for the Township of Cartwright, was coroner for Durham County, and a C.P.R. doctor until his death. He was also Chairman of the Blackstock High School Board and was active in other community organizations.

Dr. John McArthur and Lorenza Janet Dempsey were married in Toronto in 1932. Dr. John was the last doctor to practise in Blackstock. He died on July 25, 1966 and was buried in Greenbank Cemetery.

Lorenza continued to live in Blackstock for a time with her sister, Ida Dempsey. Early in 1992, Lorenza sold the Medical Hall to Blair and Janet Martyn of Blackstock.



Dr. John A. McArthur

Port Perry Hospitals

1820 - 2020



One of the first Private Hospitals was in this building, above the Port Perry Star office 235 Queen Street.

The earliest 'private' hospital is believed to be a private hospital established by Dr. David and Robert Archer to care for the patients. It was established in the 'Colburn' house, a large brick house located on Rosa St., close to where Port Perry High School is located today. This 'hospital' reverted to a private home in 1927, after the death of Dr. Robert Archer.



Advertisement placed in the Port Perry Star in October 1920 by Grace Cormack.

The next private hospital was started about 1920 by a graduate nurse, Grace Cormack, at 235 Queen St. She rented the rooms above the Port Perry Star office from Samuel Farmer, using the large airy front room for the operating room and the remainder was divided into two bedrooms. Access was up a long staircase located on the west side of the building.

After Grace Cormack married James Swan in 1926, they purchased the large brick home of Robert Somerville at 96 John Street, and converted it into a larger hospital containing 11 beds. Mrs. Swan operated the hospital until 1930 when she retired and sold it to two cousins, Nellie Whitmore and Margaret Fisher. By 1933 Mrs. Whitmore, had purchased the hospital outright and she remained in charge of the facility, the only one in the community, until 1946.



Grace Swan opened her next hospital in this house located at 96 John Street, Port Perry.



Grace Swan (Cormack) opened the first private hospital in downtown Port Perry about 1920.

The hospital consisted of a large front room, for the most important patients and on the second floor were three more patients' rooms, with two beds to each room. The second floor also had a nursery, bathroom and rooms for staff and Mrs. Whitmore's office.

Mrs. Whitmore sold the hospital to the community after she retired, and plans for a new hospital got underway with the application for a charter and the start of fundraising. By 1948 the Port Perry Hospital was forced to close its doors, since it was not deemed reasonable to spend a lot of money on the aging structure. For the first time in 30 years the town was without a hospital.



Nellie Whitmore took over the hospital in 1930 and operated from here until 1946.



This yellow brick house was the location of the John Street hospital.

In 1949 a residence for munitions workers in Ajax was purchased, cut into sections and moved by truck to Port Perry. Here it was reassembled and furnished by a government grant and local subscription as a modern up-to-date 32 bed hospital. The new, long waited for, Community Memorial Hospital was officially opened while hundreds of citizens looked on in pride on January 7, 1953, and served the needs of the community for the next 16 years.



Sections of the munitions plant from Ajax being moved by trucks to Port Perry in 1949.



The Port Perry Hospital a few years after it was opened in 1953.

Port Perry's present hospital opened on November 26, 1969. Matthew B. Dymond, a local physician, and also Minister of Health for the Province of Ontario, laid the cornerstone for the new Community Memorial Hospital on Paxton Street, during the official opening.

Since then the hospital has undergone three expansions and numerous renovations. It survived a 2017 fire, initiating a one-year, \$10 million retrofit. It re-opened in September 2018 and continues to serve the growing population of Port Perry and Scugog Township to this day.



Community Memorial Hospital, Port Perry in 2008.

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