

DR. BILL IVES

Featured in this edition is a well-known Stayner personality, Dr. Bill Ives. This article is used with permission from "On the Bay" Magazine.

At 81 "and a half" years of age, family physician Dr. Bill Ives shows no intention of laying down his stethoscope. Born and raised in Stayner he has lived his whole life in the town of 3100, embodying over 50 years of medical service not only to his local, but also to a global community. "It's the best feeling anybody can get," he enthuses, "when they're able to serve or do something for others. It's that giving of yourself."

Though he claims to be 'semi-retired', his current curriculum vitae speaks otherwise. As advisor physician for the local nursing home in Stayner, he tends to a case load well in excess of 40 patients. ("I think the average age is 88. I have a couple of sweeties who are over 100," he notes, adding wryly, "it makes you feel young.") He is also in-house physician for the Salvation Armies addiction rehabilitation program at Hope Acres, and has been since the facility first opened in 1967.

And he continues to trek annually to South America, which he has done for 23 years, to minister medically to impoverished villagers in the mountains and jungles of Ecuador. On one hand he is the quintessential small-town family doctor who has delivered three generations of his local community, while on the other he is a shining example of extra-community thinking - of going beyond the boundaries of his local medical practice to work with those in other communities that are

continents apart' both figuratively and literally from us.

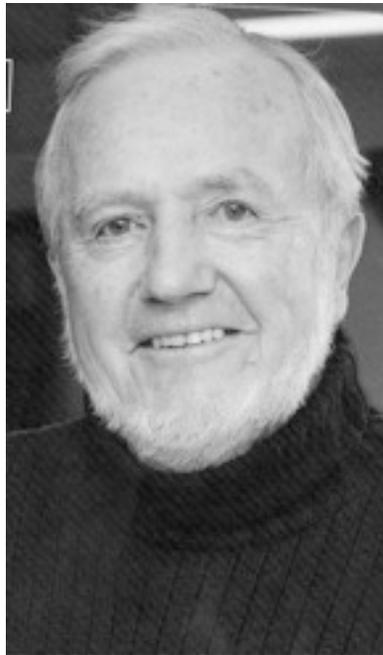
His focused commitment to the Hippocratic oath is coupled with a poignant wisdom not found in medical textbooks. "Lots of the time my best medicine is to be an ear. The biggest problem now is, and always has been, that people are lonely. That's the commonest disease going. If you can just sit and listen, it always amazes me how often a patient will say 'thank you so much, I feel so much better,' when I

haven't done a darn thing!"

An energetic bundle of common sense, of community commitment - he's been a board member of the Clearview Community Theatre from 'the "get-go" - and of a delightful if practical irreverence ("We have six churches too many," he says of Stayner's seven. His prescription: "If we could put all the people in one and just rotate the ministers....it would probably be a good thing for everybody"). Ives himself attends chapel once a week at Hope Acres of his own accord,

then goes to church on Sundays "as penance".

His annual volunteer treks to Ecuador are spent working alongside local doctors helping the poor who have little or no access to medical care. Typical of his mentoring nature he has brought with him over the years on these missions "about 40 to 45 people from Stayner and



the Creemore area,” many of whom were high school students learning valuable life lessons. “They find the people are so grateful – even if they can’t do something for them, they’re still grateful. They come back enlightened”. Of his own Ecuadorian experience he says simply, “They give me far more than I give them.” Humility aside, this doctor’s healing powers go far beyond the medical.