

Peterborough physician's simple philosophy: “Heal the world”.

Dr. Mark Siegel may be retired, but that hasn't stopped him from making this community a better place



Dr. Mark Siegel

Peterborough This Week

By [Alex Karn](#)

After 31 years as a family physician at the Peterborough Clinic, Dr. Mark Siegel retired in 2007.

“It was a difficult decision to make. I still find working with patients to be incredibly enjoyable and I’ve had such a positive experience,” he says.

“Medicine is still interesting to me, and a wonderful craft to be a part of. I find it very rewarding to be able to help families and become a part of their lives.”

Dr. Siegel opened his practice in 1976 after graduating from the School of Medicine at McMaster University. Since then, he has dedicated himself to helping the people of this community lead healthier lives.

“There is a Jewish proverb that has special meaning to me and my family,” he explains. “Tikkun olam, or heal the world. Basically it is about leaving the world better than when you entered it. We all have very little time here on Earth but we can really make a difference. One day I won’t be as able to help, so I figure why not?”

Living up to that ideal, Dr. Siegel continues to work works tirelessly to make a difference in Peterborough. He works as the physician for Stewart Homes in addition to treating patients at the Peterborough Clinic’s walk-in centre. Stewart Homes offers a group home setting for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

In honour of Dr. Siegel, a Stewart Homes' property on Cameron Street was named Dr. Mark Siegel Residence.

“I didn’t want to stop working with patients, so I said to myself that I wasn’t going to say no if anyone asked for me to be involved a community project,” he says. He also serves on the Five Counties Foundation Board, the Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA board and also is deeply involved with the Beth Israel Synagogue.

Dr. Siegel spends his little spare time with his wife, at home tending his garden, traveling and visiting his son who lives in Victoria, British Columbia. He is also a licensed pilot and frequently flies small planes out of the Peterborough Airport.

“There are so many amazing professionals and retired physicians who do amazing good here in Peterborough and all over the world. I am glad that I am able to help in the capacity that I do, but it really comes naturally to me. I look up to many others who do more than I could hope to.