



1942-2020

DR. STAFFORD W. DOBBIN MB, BCh, BaO, FCFP, OMC

Dr. Dobbin graduated from Queen's University, Belfast in 1967. He did post-graduate work in Cardiology, Internal Medicine and 'barricade medicine' in Belfast before moving to Canada and joining Dr. Ted Dickinson and Dr. Melvin Krass in 1972. He was responsible with Dr. Krass for implementing a Medical Staff commitment to the Emergency Department and they were both among the 30 or so Physicians who founded the Canadian Academy of Emergency Medicine. He formed the First Department of Emergency Medicine in the Region at Greater Niagara General Hospital in 1976 and was appointed Director of Emergency Medicine, a post he held until 1988. He helped to initiate Multi Tier Response among Public Safety Agencies in the Peninsula and by founding the organisation Heart Niagara Inc. planned all the structured Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation teaching in Niagara with a view to developing a Paramedic programme. He was among the first group of Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructors in Canada and started ACLS teaching in the Region in 1978 extending this to Paramedics in 1979. He secured the GNGH site as the Base Hospital for a Paramedic programme and helped to form the Emergency Medical Services Committee which planned the Niagara Regional Paramedic Programme in 1985. He obtained his Advanced Trauma Life Support certification in New York City in 1980 and through Heart Niagara started ATLS training in the Peninsula.

As part of Heart Niagara's role as a Community Coronary Care Centre he initiated the first Cardiac Rehabilitation programme in the Region at the Niagara Falls YMCA in 1978 and as Vice-President of the YMCA he helped ensure the continuance of "The Y" in the city after that period. He moved the Cardiac Rehab programme to The Niagara Falls Badminton and Tennis Club in 1980 in order to expand its referrals to the whole Peninsula and was Medical Director of this Programme until 2002. The programme was funded by Heart Niagara with the assistance of Dr. Dobbin and a group of Physician and Nursing colleagues who worked as volunteers three times per week until 2004. Dr. Dobbin was also a Founder Member of The Canadian Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation and was the Medical Consultant to the Regional Cardiac Rehab Programme, which now has satellite sites in Fort Erie, St. Catharines and Welland.

As part of his role as Director of Emergency Medicine (and as a Founder Member of The Canadian Academy of Sports Physicians), Dr. Dobbin started one of the first On-Site Emergency Medical Services for treatment of mass casualties in 1978 at the finish of the then Skylon Marathon. With the assistance of GNGH this developed into the Heart Niagara Marathon Medical Service and with Dr. Dobbin as its Medical Director was responsible for overseeing, among many others, two US Olympic Marathon Trials (1980, 1984), The World Masters Games in Toronto in 1985 and the World

Veterans Games in 1995. Dr. Dobbin was a Co-Founder of the International Marathon Medical Directors Association and was elected to its Executive as Secretary/Treasurer. He was responsible for the re-birth of the present Casino Niagara International Marathon serving as its Chairman from 1998 – 2000. He also worked as a Staff Physician on the annual Boston Marathon.

In 1985 Dr. Dobbin enlisted the help of a number of local educators and The Public Health Unit to expand the knowledge that arterial disease starts in childhood into a practical programme which would identify students at a high risk and offer motivation and education on Healthy Heart choices. This initiative developed in 1987, into The Niagara Schools Healthy Heart Programme and since 1989, has been in the curriculum of all Niagara High Schools with participation from every Grade 9 student. As Medical Director of this programme which is administered by Heart Niagara on behalf of its co-partners, The Regional Health Department and both School Boards, he has expanded this project to the teaching of CPR in Elementary Schools.

In 1972 Dr. Dobbin partnered with Dr. Ted Dickinson and Dr. Melvin Krass, in one of the first group medical practices. From this time the team of physicians has grown from three to nine, and has expanded with the addition of Nurse Practitioners, Social Workers, Dietitians, Registered Nurses, Health Promoters and a partnership with LifeLabs to the Niagara Medical Group Family Health Team; that provides services and supports not only to its rostered patients, but the whole community of the Niagara Region. Dr. Dobbin continued his medical practice for 48 years, having a fulfilling career caring for his patients.

With his wife, Susan, he lived on the Niagara Parkway and tended to a large family of furry and feathered friends.

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