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Obstetrician closes practice after delivering 5,000 babies

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In a rapidly changing world, it can be hard to find models of stability like Dr. Jim Brayley.

A lifetime resident of Mississauga, the 66-year-old obstetrician decided long ago to follow his father's footsteps into the medical field.

What came next was a 38-year career in the field that saw the youthful-looking doctor delivering the first baby at South Peel (now The Mississauga) hospital.

Today, it's also a career that's moving into a slower lane thanks to Brayley's recent decision to give up his practice at the Applewood Plaza to take a turn as assistant surgeon at The Mississauga Hospital.

"You've got to remember that when I got

into this, it was 1951 — the peak of the post-war baby boom. There was just so much action in obstetrics," said Brayley of his decision to become an obstetrician.

"At first I thought I'd like to get into pediatrics, but I found I couldn't stand the noise of crying babies. So instead I figured I'd just take the whole process up to that point and then let the pediatricians take care of it."

Beginning his practice in 1956 with his wife Margaret, Brayley worked for nine years out of his Dixie Rd. home. The changes during that time have been phenomenal, he says.

"If I were to pull a Rip Van Winkle in 1951 and woke up now, I don't think I'd recognize the practice, it's changed so much," said Brayley.

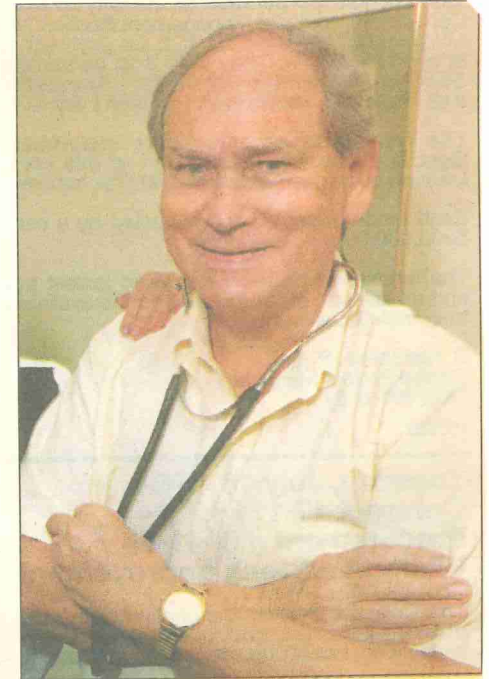
According to Brayley, most of the differences are good ones, such as a drastically decreased rate of still-births, more natural childbirth and an increased rate of survival for weak, prema-

ture babies.

"In 1951 when I graduated, unless you weighed 1,500 grams at birth, you wouldn't make it," said Brayley. "Now that figure is 750 grams. That's just a little more than a package of bacon. Think about that next time you're in a grocery store."

Having delivered some 5,000 babies in his career, Brayley finds some patients came to mind more easily than others — patients such as the three babies in the last two years who have the first name Brayley in his honor. Or the first delivered baby in South Peel hospital who returned in 1991 with a request to have Brayley deliver his first child.

For the doctor who claims to form a solid relationship with all his patients, another positive change time has brought about is the information level expectant mothers bring to the birthing process.



DR. JIM BRAYLEY

BRAYLEY, Dr. Jim July 6th, 1994 Peel Biography Book