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*For more information  
contact:*

## MEDIA RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

**Michael Mazza**  
Chief Executive Officer  
519 245-5295 ext. 5592

### ***Thank You, Dr. Sanders! - Four Counties Physician retires from 43 years of Service***

"The time has gone by pretty fast – but then, it's been busy," Dr. Maurice Sanders says. The good doctor has practiced medicine in the Four Counties area for forty-three years.

"Dr. Sanders has given tremendous service – not just to the hospital – but to the entire community," Mike Mazza, CEO of Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) says. "The MHA thanks him and wishes him an enjoyable and well-earned retirement."

"Dr. Sanders has done it all, and done it well," agrees Dr. Jon Dreyer, Chief of Staff at MHA's Four Counties site, "He has kept up with his skills and knowledge throughout that time. I have tremendous respect for him."

Over the years, Dr. Sanders was the area's Coroner; a medical director at more than one local nursing home; he has provided emergency coverage at Four Counties Health Services; inpatient care; plus his own family practice.

"Forty-three years of family practice in a rural setting, you do a lot of everything," the soft-spoken Dr. Sanders says, "I replaced a very popular doctor with lots of very loyal patients, so I was busy right off the bat." And, things didn't change in the community for a long time. "I was pretty much 'it' for a long while, there weren't many others to fall back on so I did everything."

The doctor has certainly seen some changes over the years. "I was here before Four Counties was built and attended many of the pre-hospital meetings: We turned a cornfield into a hospital," he says proudly. "Actually, it was more like a nursing home at first, but then it got busier, and more confident and then we formed the Alliance with Strathroy," Dr. Sanders recalls.

Dr. Sanders is also well-known at the Strathroy site of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance, where he delivered babies for twenty years. "I have bags under my eyes for good reason! Between babies and Coroner's duties there were many sleepless nights. As the area's Coroner, I took a beeper to bed every night for forty years." Dr. Sanders says.

In recent years, in part because there are now more general practitioners in the area, he has slowed down a little bit. "These days, I see maybe forty patients a day, instead of 50-60 as before. And, the patients in my family practice are relieved to know that two physicians new to the area, Dr. Christopher Hull and Dr. Moheb Morgan, are taking over my practice. I have patients who, in 70 years, have only had two doctors."

Looking back over his busy career, Dr. Sanders fondly recalls getting to know the many families in his practice. "I really enjoyed getting to know the families, delivering babies and then having the pleasure of watching the kids grow up. I think that's the most satisfying part of family medicine."

A retirement party for Dr. Sanders was held at the Four Counties auditorium last Wednesday August 22, co-hosted by the MHA's Four Counties Health Services site and the Four Counties Medical Clinic. The Open House, held from 2-4 pm, gave hundreds of well-wishers - patients, colleagues, staff - an opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to the doctor.

*So what will Dr. Sanders do with his retirement? Chris, his wife, who teaches nursing at the University of Western Ontario, says that hockey season will soon be here and her husband is a huge Knights fan, "He won't miss a home game!" And, aside from hockey, Dr. Sanders says life will be busy: "There is always lots to do around the farm. And, I'll be playing golf and doing lots of reading. Anything I want, really - and without wearing a beeper!"*