



William McDonald B.A., M.D.  
1871-1924

William McDonald was the eldest son of Mr. William McDonald and his wife Isabella Turnbull of Galt. There also was one daughter Mary Ellen (Mrs. William Hunter), and three sons Robert of Hamilton and John and Arthur of Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

William McDonald graduated from the Toronto University in Arts in 1892 and graduated from Toronto University Medical School with his M.D. degree in 1895. His first practice was at Rothesay. Later he moved to Kemble and married Caroline Beattie, whose father Dr. William Beattie was a medical doctor in Warton, in 1897 in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Warton. In 1898 Dr. McDonald moved to Chesley. In 1899 he moved again and this time settled in Annan in the practice bought from Dr. Sloan. The residence that was included in the purchase was a large red brick home complete with office and stocked drug store. This building was demolished in 1940 to form part of a new home farther north on the Lakeshore line.

Dr. McDonald became Medical Health Officer for Sydenham Township and held the post until his death in 1924.

Though Dr. McDonald was a real "horse and buggy doctor", about 1910 he bought a "Hupmobile" car to be used in fair weather. But the doctor loved horses and kept quite a number for his use along with several buggies, cutters and carts or gigs. Numerous tales are told of the adventures that befell the doctor in carrying out his "calls of mercy". One account is about a winter experience before there was a telephone system in Sydenham. He was called to a case in the vicinity of the present tank range, and for three days as the wind howled and drifted in the roads,