



HUG a DOCTOR
in Clearwater, British Columbia

HUG A DOCTOR IN CLEARWATER, BC – May 10, 2008

The story behind the idea

On Saturday, May 10, 2008 a local group of mothers organized a community event to show appreciation for the wonderful doctors and health care team we have in Clearwater. The event was to demonstrate community support and to help raise awareness about the current need for additional doctors in our community. Although people of all ages need the services provided by our local medical centre and hospital, this event was aimed to highlight the health care needs of families raising children in our community. For this group of mothers, many of whom are first-time parents with babies under one year old, the thought of losing our local medical services is downright terrifying. Most first-time parents are nervous at the best of times and worry about every little cough, rash, etc., but these parents never imagined having to worry about not having local access to medical care when their baby may need it the most. The organizers felt that the local health care services need to be not only sustained, but restored to what they once were. With it being Mother's Day weekend, the term "Mother's March" seemed fitting. Everyone was invited to come out and show their support. Parents, children, grandparents, uncles, aunts and friends all came. They came with posters expressing deep gratitude for the hospital, the nurses, the medical support team and of course, the two doctors who give their heart and soul to the community. T-shirts were made and over 200

hundred people wore their shirts with pride. HUG A DOCTOR IN CLEARWATER was born. The march was a success. It brought together a concerned community and gave everyone a chance to express their thanks and appreciation for all the wonderful people and medical services that we have in Clearwater. And when Dr. Soles was asked to speak, it was amazing to look out over the crowd and see just how many babies Dr. Soles had delivered, how many families and individual he and Dr. Mackenzie care for. It was an emotional moment. If ever there was a time for doctors to wonder if they make a difference, the answer was clear. One person can have an impact in a community. A rural community like Clearwater is not a sea of people blurred by numbers or traffic or so big that individuals are lost. Clearwater is a place where you wave on the streets, stop to help someone by the side of the road and where one idea can make a difference and where appreciation is not just spoken but demonstrated.

Hug a doctor in Clearwater. More than anything in the world, we hope to attract people looking to find roots in a community that cares and values the contribution of their physicians. We hope you might consider a visit.