

**Dr. William Welmore Priddle**  
**1904 - 1991**

Dr. William (Bill) Priddle was born in Eden, Ontario, in 1904. Upon graduating from secondary school he enrolled in the University of Western Ontario, graduating with a B.A. degree in 1922 and M.D. in 1926. He took his internship and a residency at Buffalo City Hospital, then set up practice in Almond, New York. After 18 months he returned to Canada, establishing a general practice in Toronto from 1929 - 34. In 1934 - 35, he took time off for further post graduate training in London, England. He returned to practice in Toronto from 1935 - 43, limiting this to internal medicine.

In 1943 he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and in 1946 was discharged with the rank of major. He was certified as a Specialist in Internal Medicine by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and set up a private practice in internal medicine in 1946.

Dr. Priddle developed a special interest in the field of hypertension and geriatrics. He was one of the earliest advocates of a low sodium diet to help reduce hypertension, at a time when this procedure was considered radical by many. The Canadian Medical Association Journal published his first paper on this subject in 1931. Other papers written by Dr. Priddle were published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, Annals of Internal Medicine and the Ontario Medical Review.

He was appointed consultant in geriatrics to the Department of Social and Family Services, Province of Ontario in 1953. In this capacity he helped rewrite the Homes for the Aged Act to upgrade medical services. In 1958 he became the first Chairman of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Geriatric Studies. He was instrumental in the establishment of an acute geriatric ward at the Toronto Western Hospital. Dr. Priddle pioneered in the creation of the Geriatric Study Centre at 350 Christie Street, Toronto, where he was a consultant in cardiovascular diseases. He helped to found the Ontario Geriatric Research Society and was elected Chairman to its Medical Advisory Board.

Dr. Priddle served on the Board of Directors of the American Geriatrics Society and in recognition of his special contribution to the field of geriatrics the Society presented him with the Malford W. Thewlis award for 1970. He was the second Canadian to receive this award.

Dr. Priddle's major interest outside his practice was farming. He developed a fine orchard on his farm in Downsview and when his land was expropriated by the municipality, he purchased a farm further west of Metro Toronto and began another orchard.

Dr. Priddle was pre-deceased by his wife Agatha. They had five daughters, Nancy Corcoran, Barbara Van Diepen, Elizabeth McGregor, Diane Savage and Susan Shaker, 21 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.