

Dr. Ante Bilic

Toronto, May 28, 2024

Dear Friends,

With sadness and gratitude I am writing to you to let you know that my tenure in dental practice has come to an end. Due to some unforeseen and definitely unfortunate events in my family back in Croatia I have to move and stop practicing. Looking back at 35 years here I am amazed how many people I have met and with how many I became friends with. Richness of my experience here is underlined by interactions with all of you. I hope you enjoyed laugh and banter as much as I did. As the old saying goes, if you love your job you will not work a single day in your life. I certainly see myself in that. To this day I still enjoy dentistry and above all interactions with all of you. It is with profound gratitude that I can say that in my professional career there wasn't a day that I did not learn something new, share your victories and successes, gave you my ear when it was needed, offered counsel if I was asked to, watched some of you grow up and some of you grow old with me. All of you have left an indelible mark in my life and I hope I did the same for you no matter how small. It was inevitable that I will stop practicing one day after all I have been doing this for exactly 40 years. I was delaying my ride into the sunset but recent events hastened that decision. It is time to see what a new chapter brings. Can I improve my golf handicap? Is Korean literature actually better than Japanese? How many days will it take to listen to 63 versions of Schubert Winterreise? Can I make a perfect Birkin bag or shell cordovan wallet? All these questions beg for an answer and I hope to answer them unless I get sidetracked with woodworking or such. Hardest and unreconciled part is to stop providing care to all of you that trusted me over the decades. Your trust was the fuel to everything I did. My only hope is that I justified your trust in me. It is the time to pass the torch to some other people that will hopefully do an even better job. Another part I can't omit is my staff. Years I shared with them taught me humility, respect and warmth. They taught me that geographic origin, skin color, religion or national belonging doesn't determine the quality of the person. I always thought I was a hard worker, compassionate, dedicated until I met some of them. My lab technicians for 30 years, Gordana and Mirjana, taught me more than they will ever know. Multitude of others marched through my life as it always is when you run the business that depends on suppliers, repair techs, agents, reps and always on referral doctors. All of them left the traces that cannot be forgotten. To all of them I owe my deepest gratitude.

In the end: I will continue to maintain my website

(www.drantebilic.com) through which you can always reach out to me. My email -

abilic107@gmail.com - will stay the same. Please drop me a line, any time. I would be glad to stay in touch. You can use social media for the same purpose.

To all of you I wish all the very best.

Humbly and respectfully yours,

Dr . Ante Bilic