United States and Canada. We didn't want to go to the States and this opportunity presented itself," says Kafka.

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KAFKA, Dr

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He adds Belleville General Hospital's reputation in the medical community and the fact he knew several of his current colleagues helped him make his decision.

"Belleville is a nice sized town. It's central and we can easily get to Ottawa, Kingston or Toronto if we want to. And, there are personal reasons, too," says Kafka.

A specialist in cardiology (the study of the heart), he says he has two areas of particular interest echo cardiography and coronary artery disease.

"I'm especially interested in heart disease in young people under the age of 50. At the Armed Forces hospital, of course, that was the bulk of our patients," says Kafka.

A trade-off, he admits, when he came to Belleville was giving up procedures like angiograms (a test that determines the amount of blockage in the arteries leading to the heart).

"It's a procedure that's not done in Belleville, but Kingston is close and KGH has an excellent department," says Kafka.

And, he adds there's the challenge of becoming involved in more areas of internal medicine with his new practice.

Outside of his practice, Kafka says his family is interested in skiing, swimming, biking and son Chris is a rower.

"We were very involved in our church in Ottawa and we'll have to see what develops here. We like to travel and we have our computers," he says.