

# DENTURE CLINIC EXPANDS INTO KELOWNA MARKET

**A Denturist's scope of practice has broadened over the past 20 years to incorporate partial dentures, replacement of missing teeth due to sports injuries and titanium implants**

**V**ERNON - Tyler Perrault, R.D. BPS Master, got his first job, at the age of 11, delivering newspapers to his neighbourhood; at 14 he launched a racquet stringing enterprise and at 16 he graduated to having his own contracting company doing renovations and odd jobs. In 2000, after working as a denturist in Saskatchewan for several years, his strong entrepreneurial spirit led him to Vernon and the purchase of **Vernon Denture Clinic**, a well-established 43-year-old denture practice.

Sixteen years later, after seeing steady and consistent growth in Vernon, his company has expanded, opening its second location in Kelowna.

The new location has 1,600 sq. ft. and is located close to the bridge and the highway, making it easily accessible for people from West Kelowna, Lake Country and the South Okanagan.

Although Perrault works in both clinics, he has recently welcomed fellow graduate of NAIT, **Stacey MacAulay**, R.D., as a Denturist to the Kelowna location. Prior to joining Perrault, MacAulay worked for several years running her own practice at one of the largest denture groups in Western Canada.

"I knew it was time to expand in location and staffing when the opportunity to provide better, quicker and more efficient service became a reality thanks to digital dentures," Perrault said. "It was a great way to differentiate our services in the Kelowna market, plus I had been suggesting to my peers who were looking to relocate to BC that they should try Kelowna, so I finally took my own advice."

Perrault said that part of the

success with his business came from his foundational experiences as a young entrepreneur and from his father, who had a background in business leadership and counselled him at a young age to consider working for himself.

Help with choosing a career, however, came from his stepfather, a denturist who eventually retired after 40 years as a practitioner.

"My stepdad was always passionate about his work and about what he saw as the benefits of owning his own business. He also saw that I was good with my hands and had a strong entrepreneurial drive. I asked questions and discovered I liked what I heard so began my training in 1995."

Student Denturists study for a minimum of three years after earning a university degree with a Science background. They focus on clinical and laboratory skills, diagnostic and treatment expertise and intra-oral and laboratory procedures. They can also pursue more education in a variety of specialties.

"I've made it a priority in my practice to consistently pursue continuing education to keep my skills on the cutting edge of denturism technology."

Early in his career, one significant development Perrault adopted was in BPS or Biofunctional Prosthetic System. Developed by **Ivoclar**, one of the leaders in the denturism world, it offered a standardized process for treatment and for a functional outcome.

"It gave me the opportunity to provide a better product for my patients that would improve their quality of life."

The greatest advancement in making dentures in the past 100 years, according to Perrault, are digital dentures.

"The industry standard for making dentures is between three to four weeks. With digitalized technologies I can make a denture in seven days and as the method improves delivery times will shorten."

Perrault explained that with the digital system patients get a better quality product and more efficient service. He added that, with a traditional set of dental impressions, molding material is



**Stacey MacAulay, R.D. has recently joined the Kelowna clinic.**

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**One of Vernon Denture Clinic's registered lab technicians putting finishing touches on a set of dentures**

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placed in the patient's mouth until the compound sets when it is then removed.

"Some patients have a strong gag reflex and are sensitive to having the mold in their mouth. With the digitized system a small tool scans the mouth. We then download the image to the software where we can manipulate the picture to create a more accurate final product."

The process incorporates a comprehensive workflow with innovative appliances, software programs and materials that can be customized and built into a patient-specific denture.

Perrault pointed out that a denturist's scope of practice has broadened over the 20 years he has been in practice, and not just in technology. He doesn't only work with



**The location in Kelowna is easily accessible from West Kelowna, Lake Country and the South Okanagan**

CREDIT:VERNON DENTURE CLINIC



**The new 1,600 sq. ft. Kelowna Denture Clinic has spacious patient exam rooms**

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**"My stepdad was always passionate about his work and about what he saw as the benefits of owning his own business."**

**TYLER PERRAULT**  
OWNER, VERNON DENTURE CLINIC

seniors or with patients needing a complete set of dentures.

"We can make partial dentures to work with existing teeth," he said. "Our clientele now encompasses all age groups, including

those who have sustained a sports injury, need to replace a missing tooth, or require dental implants."

"Denturism is a profession that generates a lot of questions in terms of what it does. The most common misconception is that we produce dentures for dentists. In reality, a dentist sends denture cases to a commercial lab that will produce dentures for a large number of dentists, never seeing patients. A Denturist has their own lab and only make dentures for the patients we see."

Collaboration is at the heart of Perrault's business model, however, and his business has worked hard to develop reciprocal relationships with other dental professionals, with referrals going both ways.

He stressed that some medical conditions may require the removal of some or all teeth as they can impact overall health, an important reason for maintaining those relationships with surgeons and dentists.

"We have a history at our Vernon clinic of collaborating with dentists and oral surgeons on patient treatment and care. Our Kelowna clinic staff is also working closely with dental colleagues," he explained. "It is a real benefit to the patient and our employees as it empowers our staff to do their best work, with the same outcome and goal in mind."

Vernon Denture Clinic is at 2910-31st Avenue in Vernon  
www.vernondentureclinic.com

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