

Top Notch

Profiles In Excellence

Drs. Derek & Karen MacDonald and Associates

optimal vision ... elegant style

The old adage about your eyes being the window to your soul apparently has more than just a grain of truth to it.

The eye can actually indicate the presence of diabetes, multiple sclerosis, hypertension and many other general health conditions. That's why a visit to the MacDonald's optometry practice always includes a thorough ocular health evaluation.

"Systemic conditions are often detected, and commonly monitored, through an eye exam," explains Dr. Derek MacDonald. "Many patients are surprised by how much time we spend examining the health of their eyes. Good vision is much more than simply reading the 20/20 line on the chart."

Building leading edge eye care ...

Naturally, everyone in the practice recognizes the importance of sight. The entire team is keen on ensuring that patients enjoy the best vision possible; anticipating, then meeting their needs from both a health and an ophthalmic materials perspective. While the clinic has a large selection of frame and lens styles at their disposal, the eye wear is merely a means to an end. Eye care is always the priority. As Dr. Karen MacDonald relates, "It's extremely gratifying to assist someone in improving their vision – to hear them say 'I can see again!' Optometry is a fascinating and rewarding career because we can make an immediate, significant and positive impact on people's lives."

Karen enjoys caring for infants and children. The clinic is designed to be child friendly and provide an enjoyable examination experience. Visual perception assessment is an area of special interest and care is taken to evaluate the capabilities and determine the needs of each individual child. The optometric assistants, while keeping the office organized and on schedule, excel at making patients, particularly children, feel at home.

Derek is fascinated by the challenges of eye disease, including diabetes, macular degeneration and glaucoma. He's continually improving his knowledge about these and other conditions through

study and research. It's a common theme for everyone ... arriving each day with a thirst for on-going education. Anyone lacking that drive simply wouldn't fit in this practice.

Dr. Lisa Willms has a special interest in the amazing transformations that can be accomplished through laser eye surgery. Having practiced over a decade in the field of refractive surgery, Lisa brings a wealth of knowledge about this incredible procedure, and shares the excitement of patients as they discard the glasses or contact lenses that they've often worn for decades.

... on a foundation of caring

The caring doesn't stop at the front door, or the city limits, for Dr. Deanna DiRenzo. She recently returned from a volunteer adventure in Nicaragua where she provided eye care for hundreds of local residents, treating many of them for dry eyes and glaucoma. Indeed, volunteering is a core value of the practice. Derek traveled to Guyana as he began his career 17 years ago with a suitcase full of eye drops, and encountered a line of patients that simply never ended. He's now past-president of the Ontario Association of Optometrists and contributes to the Local Health Integration Network, helping advise the Ontario Government in matters of health care.

"We all like to give back to our community, and chose optometry because it's a people profession," Derek notes. "We're excited about the tremendous rate of change in optometry; we're continually learning, implementing new techniques and the latest technology. It's our responsibility, and privilege, to share this knowledge with our patients, and help them make informed choices about their vision. Our goal is simple, but not easy ... to provide an eye care experience that is second to none."

