

Local Business News

North Shore Health Associates opens new office



Dr. Tom Sartor, centre, and staff (left to right) Ann Champion, Ashlee Ferris, Niki Mitchell and Kelly Othen welcomed visitors to the opening of North Shore Health Associates new

By LYN TREMBLAY

Over the last few months, Port Dover residents have watched curiously as a century home on Main Street underwent a metamorphosis. Last weekend, balloons flying from a large sign in the driveway

indicated that a celebration of its new life was underway.

Inside the building, now expanded to include a large health facility, Dr. Tom Sartor and his staff were welcoming visitors to their new North Shore Health As-

sociates office.

Dr. Sartor started his chiropractic practice in Port Dover in 1998. He and his staff split their time between offices in this community and in Delhi. As the need for his services increased, the former 1,500 square foot office became too small, and so it seemed the time was right to build a new modern facility. He chose to build a new office and practise full-time in Port Dover.

Dr. Sartor says he recognized that the house at 517 Main Street was of historical importance to the community and from the beginning his plans included restoration, as well as keeping it an integral part of a much larger building.

The house has been completely restored inside and out. The rear expansion reflects the historical architecture as well its residential character, and includes porches with peaked roofs and an exterior of reclaimed bricks. "We went to the trouble of getting bricks from an old Norfolk County farmhouse," explains Dr. Sartor. "We used all local trades (people) and they've done a wonderful job."

The house is now home to Lower Lakes Shipping, while North Shore Health Associates provide their services out of the new addition.

Last weekend, visitors were welcomed to an Open House to view the new space. Those who came throughout the day were patients as well as neighbours and members of the community who were just curious. On the freshly painted walls, staff proudly pointed out special gifts from a former resident of the house. "Barb Long grew up here," explained Dr. Sartor. "When she heard about what we were doing she called and said she had something for us." Old deeds dating as far back as 1872

have been framed and proudly hung.

They add a homey touch to a modern office that now boasts state-of-the-art equipment used in combination with traditional chiropractic services or independently.

Patients can receive attention in five spacious sound-proofed treatment rooms. In the Orthotic Room a computer scans a patient's footsteps 600 times a second, assessing how they walk and ultimately determining their orthotic needs.

All staff is trained in the use different laser treatment techniques. Pulsating Magnetic Therapy uses a laser independently or in combination with a magnetic field. Dr. Sartor explains that this machine is brand new from Germany and is one of very few currently available in Ontario. It is used to treat such things as fibromyalgia and circulatory problems.

In another room, patients may be treated by a 'Bioflex Practitioner'. A piece of equipment which resembles a large body collar assesses the patient's health problem and light is then used as treatment.

Ann Champion is one of seven staff members at the health centre. She says it is exciting for staff to be involved in the patient treatments. "You get to learn about many different things."

"We are trying not to be stagnant," says Dr. Sartor. "We are trying to provide services people wouldn't normally associate with a chiropractor."

NorthShore Health Associates offers hours of service on Monday from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday from 8:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed Wednesday, open on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Saturday 7:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon.