

# Hygienists excited about chance to operate independent clinics

Continued from pg. 8

Margaret Carter, executive director of the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association, said the organization is very excited hygienists can now operate their own clinics.

"It has been a 14-year campaign to get a change to the legislation," said Carter.

She believes there are three definite benefits for the public, one being accessibility. She says it will result in more access for the public to dental hygiene services and under the legislation hygienists can now go into homes and long-term care facilities to provide dental hygiene to people who can't get out without requiring a dentist's order.

Leal has linked with a mobile dental hygienist in town who can provide that type of service in this area.

Choice is another benefit, Carter said, because now people can decide where they want to go for their oral care.

Affordability is another plus, she said, as hygienists don't require the same amount of equipment as dentists so should be able to provide their services at a lesser cost.

Leal said the initial exam at her clinic will cost a lot less than at a dentist's office because there will be no X-rays and a dentist won't check the teeth.

She said the actual cleaning will be slightly less expensive.

The lower cost should appeal to those who don't have dental plans, she said. Most major insurance companies should cover the services offered in the clinic, but Leal said patients should check with their insurers.

In the clinic, along with the cleaning and whitening, she will perform full exams, including head and neck, and screen patients for oral cancer. She will chart the mouth and is responsible for the tissue health of the gums, which she said is doubly important because research has shown gum disease can lead to other health problems.

"If we can maintain their oral health, teach them how to brush and floss, and use other tools they need they can actually keep their teeth longer, and they won't have bone loss and periodontal disease," said Leal.

The clinic, which Leal said she is considering franchising in the future, will be open Monday through Friday, some Saturday mornings and evenings on Tuesdays. Call 905-873-2121. The website is [www.radiance-whiteningclinic.com](http://www.radiance-whiteningclinic.com).

## Office closed for new holiday

The *Independent & Free Press* office will be closed Monday, February 18 so staff can enjoy the new Family Day provincial holiday.

The office will reopen Tuesday, February 19 at 8:30 a.m.

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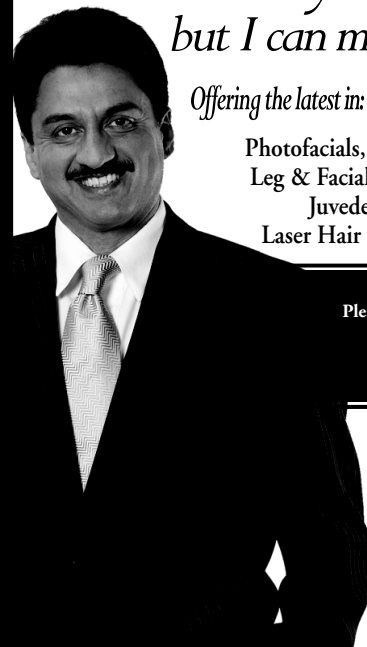
**CORRECTION NOTICE**

In our Feb. 12, 2008 flyer, the description for Chestnut Park 6 pce silk duvet cover set is incorrect. The description should read: Chestnut Park 6 pce faux silk duvet cover set.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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