

PEOPLE

Dentist went from childhood patient to partner

Waseema Ali wouldn't remember first meeting Sheldon Lazier.

She was two years old. He was her family's dentist in Scarborough.

Fast forward 37 years and the pair are partners in Stouffville Family Dentistry.

In between those times, Ms Ali volunteered at the multi-practice dental group Dr. Lazier was a partner in in Toronto.

"From a very early age I knew that I wanted to be a dentist," she said.

She graduated from Howard University's College of Dentistry in 1998 and practised in the Washington, D.C., area for the next four years, serving as a team

dentist for the NHL's Washington Capitals and NBA's Washington Wizards.

Dr. Lazier left the Toronto group for Stouffville in 1996.

PATIENTS MORE INVOLVED

"It was always my goal to provide expert dental care in a warm, family-friendly environment," he said.

Dr. Ali joined the practice three years later. She became a partner in 2011.

The pair completed major renovations at their offices in the downtown IDA building last year.

"We've come full circle," said Dr. Lazier,

who "doesn't even think about" the 25-year difference between the pair.

They find their skill sets complement each other.

What's changed in dentistry?

"It's now about doing things a patient wants," Dr. Lazier said. "They're much more involved."

Solutions are more permanent, including implants that last forever, Dr. Ali said.

And while succession planning is part of the process the partners are going through, Dr. Lazier makes it clear he's not planning on retiring anytime soon.

- Jim Mason



PHILIP CASTLETON PHOTO

Waseema Ali and Sheldon Lazier at their office.

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CONSUMED

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19 Civic Avenue, Whitchurch-Stouffville

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Gardening is for the Birds
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Oak Ridges Community Centre
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

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Dufferin Clark Library
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