

BARRHAVEN BUSINESS PROFILE

Couple gives family business a new meaning

Dr. Martin Lin and Dr. Jennifer Tan combine their specialties at Barrhaven Orthodontics and Periodontics

BY JEFFREY MORRIS

We all have a mental image of a family business. There are maybe two or three generations who have been involved, discussion at the dinner table is work-related, and the kids cut their teeth by doing menial tasks after school and on weekends.

But for Drs. Martin Lin and Jennifer Tan of Barrhaven Orthodontics and Periodontics, family business takes on a whole other meaning.

"We met while we were in dental school at McGill University," said Dr. Lin, a periodontist. "We ended up having a long distance relationship as we continued our studies at different schools. About a year ago, we got married. Right after that, we opened up our practice."

Not your typical honeymoon.

For Dr. Tan, an orthodontist, the family business connection is even stronger. One of the unique attributes that she brings to the table, or in this case the dental chair, is that she is a young woman. "It's an advantage because many of the patients, especially teenagers, are comfortable with me," she said. "They can relate to me a little better. I am one of only four female orthodontists in all of Ottawa. Also, I graduated in 2007. Being recently educated, I was exposed to many new techniques and methods of treatment."

And how does that relate to family business?

"My two sisters are also orthodontists—one practises in Stittsville and one practises in Orleans. When I said there are only four female orthodontists in Ottawa, well, we are three of them."

Barrhaven Orthodontics and Periodontics is located at Strandherd Crossing Plaza at Strandherd and Woodroffe. Their services include orthodontic therapy for people of all ages, including Invisalign ("invisible braces"), gum disease therapy, gum defect corrections, and dental implant surgery. Dr. Tan is the orthodontist, while Dr. Lin is the periodontist. Both had been working in offices in Ottawa when they decided to pursue their vision of opening up an office together in Barrhaven.

"Barrhaven is a growing area with a lot of young families," said Dr. Tan. "It is a perfect location for us to have our practice. It is also unique for us to have one office where we combine our specialties."

Both doctors say that their primary focus is on patient care.

"The priority is the patient," said Dr. Tan. "We make sure they receive high quality care in a comfortable setting."

While outstanding customer service may set other businesses apart in Barrhaven, it brings Dr. Lin and Dr. Tan together with other dental offices.

"We have a great working relationship with the dentists in Barrhaven, and throughout the Ottawa area," Dr. Tan said. "Many of our patients are referred. We have many patients from Barrhaven, but we have many coming in from outside the community, such as Kemptville and throughout the area."

Dr. Lin added that even though much of their business is referral based, some patients make appointments on their own, and they are accepting new patients.

Both specialists come to Barrhaven with outstanding resumes. After completing his studies at McGill, Dr. Lin went on to the University of Michigan and then specialized in periodontics at the University of Minnesota. After Dr. Tan finished at McGill, she interned at the Montreal Children's Hospital, continued her studies, specializing in orthodontics at the University of Detroit-Mercy, and then interned at the Montreal Children's Hospital. They are both board certified in Canada with the Royal College of Dentists. Dr. Lin is also board certified in the United States.

And why they came to Ottawa to practice will be no surprise.

"My sisters are here and I wanted to be close to my family," Dr. Tan said.

For more information on Barrhaven Orthodontics and Periodontics, visit their website at www.ortho-perio.ca or call (613) 482-0882.



Jeffrey Morris photo

Dr. Jennifer Tan and Dr. Martin Lin were married in 2008, just before opening up their practice in Barrhaven. Barrhaven Orthodontics and Periodontics is located at Strandherd Crossing, at Strandherd and Woodroffe.

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