

# Glen Abbey Optometrist loses glasses

## The Herzig way

EXCLUSIVE TO ABBEY OAKS NEWS  
By SHEILA DULMAGE

Imagine - for the first time in your life being able to look at your watch with no form of corrective lenses and be able to see with clarity. We tend to take for granted those day to day actions, giving no thought to it.

We hear on the radio every day advertisements for laser eye surgery and most likely ignore it. After having the distinct pleasure of meeting optometrist Dr. Ron Gall, and the privilege of observing his own laser eye surgery, I will no longer take the simple, automatic things in life for granted.

Dr. Gall is in his fifth year of practice, running a crackerjack office at North Service Road and Dorval. He is a perfectionist, totally committed to his patients and their well being. Having spent two years in research prior to setting up practice, Dr. Gall is proactive in patient education, new technology and exercising options in eyecare.

Having worn glasses since the tender age of one and contact lenses since his teen's years, Dr. Gall has never had the luxury of waking up in the morning and seeing without corrective lenses. Many patients come to Dr. Gall requesting information on laser vision correction. The laser surgery is, quite simply, guiding a laser to gently alter the shape of your cornea. It is a painless, non-invasive procedure, taking only a few minutes.

Founder of the Toronto laser sight centre in 1990 is Dr. Sheldon Herzig, ophthalmologist, who pioneered the lasik technique laser assisted in situ keratomileusis, to treat higher levels of myopia. Dr. Herzig, president of the Canadian society of cataract and refractive surgery, was the first surgeon in North America to perform the historical new procedure surgical reversal of presbyopia.

Dr. Gall, after his own diligent research, refers patients to Dr. Herzig at the Herzig Eye Institute in Toronto, providing the referral, support and pre- and postoperative care. The technology is surgeon dependent. Therefore you must go to the best surgeon for the best results, explains Dr. Gall. The Herzig Eye Institute is the only clinic in the world to be I. S. O. International standards organization approved.

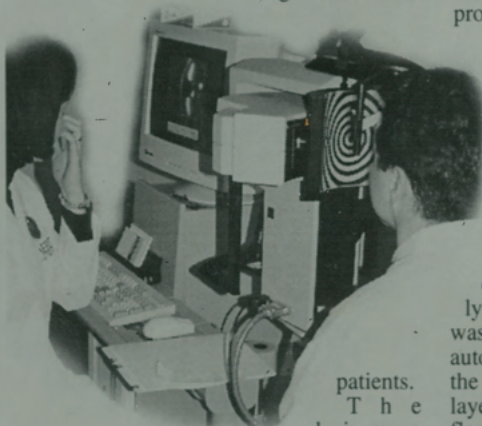
The time arrived in early November for

### WHAT IS LASER VISION CORRECTION?

An excimer laser is a state of the art computer guided technology for correcting vision. After thorough preliminary testing and preparation during which over 6,000 points on your cornea are precisely mapped, the surgeon guides the laser gently to alter the shape of your cornea. Done with anesthetic eye drops to ensure complete comfort you are conscious throughout the entire procedure, which takes just a few minutes.

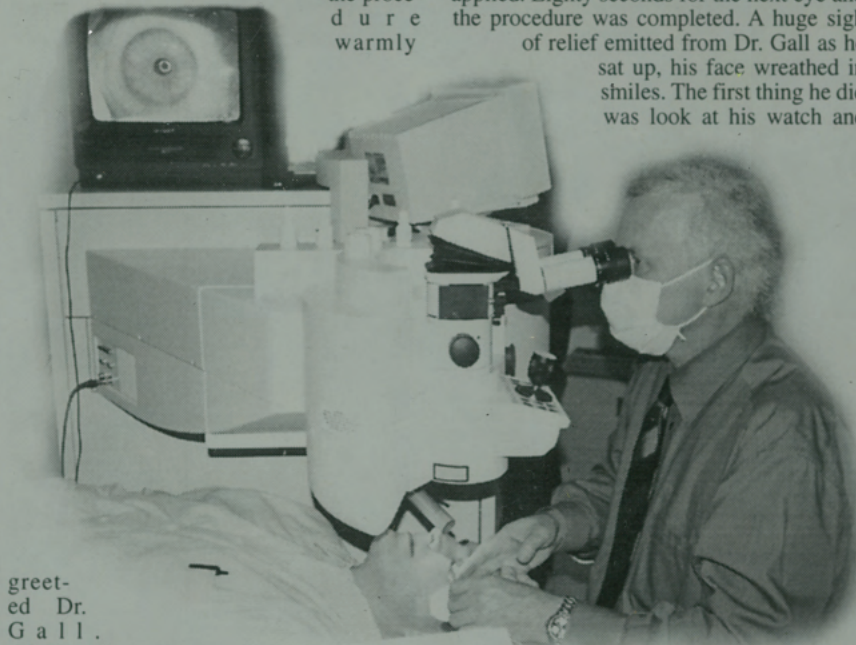
The reshaping of the cornea reduces the need for glasses or contact lens.

Dr. Gall to undergo the procedure himself, knowing his own experience to draw on would be invaluable in guiding and informing his own



patients.

The limo arrived precisely on time at Dr. Gall's office, an option available to all patients, driven by Michael Boimol, and the driver for most of the institute's patients. Michael's professionalism combined with his sense of humour provided comfort and light banter. On arrival, the Herzig staff, well known to most as he escorts many of his patients to the clinic for the procedure warmly



greeted Dr. Gall. After reading and signing the consent form, Dr. Gall was then taken by a technician to check the topography of his eyes. We had time to sit in the waiting room and watch, through a large picture window, a few of the patients undergoing the actual laser treatment. I could sense Dr. Gall becoming slightly more anxious, working the tissue in his hands into a tight ball. I admire Dr. Gall very much for allowing a complete stranger to study him at such a vulnerable time. Any professional will tell you when they are the patient, human nature steps in and one becomes very much the layperson, with all the normal emotions and anxieties.

After a quick pre-op check by Dr. Herzig to make sure all was well and eyes healthy, an assistant settled Dr. Gall into a comfort-

able chair. Anaesthetizing his eyes with drops and stabilizing his head with sandbags, she explained again the procedure and what to expect. There was something very profound in watching Dr. Gall remove and pass his glasses to the assistant. He had never known life without them. Becoming slightly diaphoretic as one eye was taped shut; I could detect an increase in the anxiety level and respiration rate. Dr. Herzig slipped in, chatting amicably with Dr. Gall as he completed the pre-check of equipment.

Ready to go, the lights lowered, and Dr. Gall lay completely immobile. An eyelid speculum was used to prevent blinking. An automated blade gently skimmed the eyeball, lifting the surface layer of the cornea, creating a flap. With the flap folded back, the only noise in the room for the next 87 seconds was the tat-tat-tat of the computer guided laser, the assistant encouraging Dr. Gall, counting down the seconds, and Dr. Herzig's calm voice, quietly explaining each step. The eye was irrigated of any debris, the corneal flap replaced and smoothed out and a clear corneal bandage applied. Eighty seconds for the next eye and the procedure was completed. A huge sigh of relief emitted from Dr. Gall as he sat up, his face wreathed in smiles. The first thing he did was look at his watch and

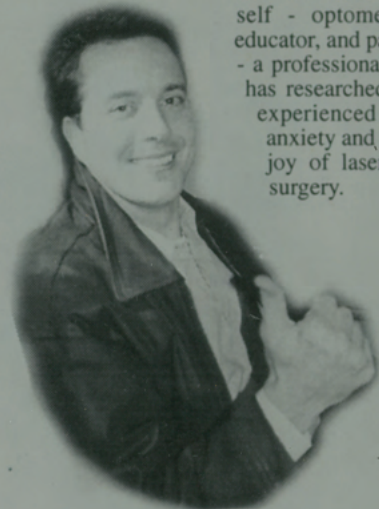
for a lifetime of almost perfect visual acuity. In mentioning price, the Herzig Eye Institute is at the upper end of the laser centres. The institute will not jeopardize quality for quantity.

You know as soon as you walk in the door you are in

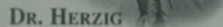


the best of hands. The quiet decor puts no strain on the post-operative eye. Every staff member is highly qualified, impeccably trained, and always accessible for any concerns or questions. Dr. Herzig himself a quiet, modest gentleman with intense focus, skill, education and gentle hands like no other. Dr. Gall, always learning and striving to offer his patients the best and most updated technology, is a worthy colleague of Dr. Herzig.

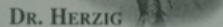
There is no better person to turn to for information of laser eye surgery than Dr. Gall himself - optometrist, educator, and patient - a professional that has researched and experienced the anxiety and sheer joy of laser eye surgery.



DR. HERZIG



DR. RONALD GALL



noted the results were immediate - he could see without the aid of a corrective lens.

The half-hour postoperative wait passed quickly, where patients sit and chat - many of them from the United States. A slight redness and tearing of the eye was the only noticeable side effect post-op - no pain.

Dr. Gall, after 10 minutes to gather his thoughts, was very eager to share his sense of relief, respect for Dr. Herzig and joy of clear vision, but the expression on his face said even more. After a post-op check with Dr. Herzig the corneal bandages were removed. Home care and follow up instructions were given and Dr. Gall was free to go.

There were no complaints of physical discomfort only a slight gritty feeling and slight burning sensation, which would last a few hours. A small price to pay

### THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS CAN BE TREATED WITH LASER VISION CORRECTION;

Myopia - near sightedness. Light rays are focused in front of the retina; objects in the distance appear blurred.

Astigmatism - light rays have two points of focus in front of, or behind, the retina resulting in blurred images.

Hyperopia - far sightedness. Light rays are focused behind the retina; objects up close appear more blurred than those in the distance.

Dr. Ronald Gall & Associates Optometrists  
247 North Service Rd. West Suite #203  
905-338-2020