

Community-minded eyecare for Samantha Bourdeau

Alisa Howlett/News staff

Clear vision is paramount, especially when there's so much beauty to see in this seaside community.

Samantha Bourdeau, 41, has been an optometrist for 16 years and certainly knows the importance of proper eye care. For the past four years of her career she has been working alongside Ray Dahl of Ray Dahl Optical. In fact, she has slowly been taking over the business.

"Ray has had this business for close to 30 years I believe and so he really knows the people of the community really well," says Bourdeau. "I think all of our staff are pretty good at knowing everyone by name who comes in the door and remembering them and asking how their family is and how that vacation was, that kind of thing. So we're really getting into those personal relationships with the community."

Because Dahl has been

such a fixture in the community, Bourdeau has a big role to fill; but ultimately, the community has been very receptive to her.

"I think they've been grateful because before I came on there wasn't a doctor here at all, it was just the glasses and contacts – so they've been grateful to have someone to do the eye exams."

Offering eye exams is just one of the positive changes Bourdeau has implemented. Bourdeau has worn glasses herself since she was six-years-old and says she was always in and out of her optometrist's office. That's how she first became interested in eyecare.

From her experience, Bourdeau emphasizes the importance of knowing her patients and accommodating their personal needs.

"Sidney's a little bit different because there's certainly more retirees in the community. So we see some different things here



Slowly taking over for Ray Dahl, Optometrist Samantha Bourdeau is happy to be expanding with the new eye care centre for Ray Dahl Optical and Optometrists.

then we would maybe in other eye care places. We certainly see more diseases of the eye, so more cataracts and macular degeneration and glaucoma and things like that, so we're always on the

lookout for those things."

Bourdeau has even brought in new, specialized equipment that helps to early detect those types of issues.

"We've invested in that to

better serve the community and make sure we're on top of those things."

Another big change has been the new eye care storefront. Bourdeau and Dahl made the decision to

invest in a new storefront, one just around the corner from the former location. The open-concept space lets in an abundance of natural light and is double the size of the former location, allowing the practice to continue to grow and expand.

These recent changes have been made with the community in mind, something Bourdeau says she's pleased with.

"We provide a service to the community that we are proud of. We treat patients with respect and provide the ultimate in eye care."

One thing Bourdeau wants the community and her patients to know is even though she's slowly taking over for Dahl and making significant improvements, Dahl is not going anywhere and will still be that recognizable face everyone knows and trusts, hoping she is viewed the same way.

Stephanie Peat

When it comes to choosing a real estate professional, nothing is more important than working with an individual with an intimate knowledge of the community and a genuine concern for clients and community alike.

Stephanie Peat is that professional.

Born and raised on the Saanich Peninsula, no one knows its neighborhoods better than Stephanie. She's spent nearly a decade working in real estate and, as an agent for DFH Real Estate in Sidney, she provides an unsurpassed wealth of knowledge to every one of her clients.

"I know these neighborhoods," she explains. "I grew up here and I apply that first-hand knowledge to every client, making sure they make the best, well-informed decisions about their homes."

Stephanie Peat

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And whether it's a first time buyer, an experienced homeowner, or someone whose changing lifestyle has brought them to the real estate market, Stephanie starts every relationship by listening to her client's needs and respectfully supporting their real estate goals.

Stephanie's love of the community extends beyond her real estate career. As a cancer survivor, she is passionate about helping to fight cancer in a meaningful way. That's why she commits part of her portion of every sale to the BC Cancer Foundation. She also takes an active part in the annual CIBC Run for the Cure. It's all about caring.

Knowledge, caring, understanding... all coupled with a meticulous attention to the details of every transaction... it's what makes Stephanie Peat the obvious choice for real estate service on the Saanich Peninsula.



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