



Saving Smiles

WITH PASSION
AND COMPASSION

By Dani Kremenik
Photography Lorne Bradley

As a root canal specialist and a travel aficionado, Dr. Gary Glassman lives his life with both passion and compassion. An Endodontist who prides himself on creating and nurturing positive and progressive relationships, in both his professional and personal life, Dr. Glassman would make a great motivational speaker if he weren't so busy saving smiles.

Born and raised in Toronto, Dr. Glassman graduated from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry, and is now a staff member of the U of T Graduate Department of Endodontics. Following a year of general practice he decided to specialize and continued his studies at Temple University, graduating from the Endodontology Program (the study of root canals). With the desire to help his patients improve their overall health, it makes sense he went straight to the root.

"I wanted to be an expert in one thing. I like seeing my patients, solving a problem, and making a difference," says Glassman. And he does in many ways. As a founding member of the Bridle Bash Foundation, he is dedicated to helping raise money for charities focusing on health research, treatment, and support. The Bridle Bash Foundation is largely supported by the Bridle Bash rock concert, which in 2013 was headlined by the Tragically Hip and raised nearly a million dollars.

Gary also travels to Jamaica several times a year. This journey began in the late '90's as charity work, and while he is now an Adjunct Professor of Dentistry and Director of Endodontic Programming for the University of Technology, Kingston, Jamaica, it's still on a volunteer basis. While on his way to Jamaica for the first time he had no idea that he was soon to become as known for his knowledge as he was for his practice. "I was on vacation in Negril and I contacted the Jamaican Dental Society about teaching a continuing education course. I flew to Kingston and expected there to be four or five dentists in attendance. I walked in and there were 75 dentists waiting for me. I realized quickly that they were thirsting for continuing education."

Lecturing across the globe in spectacular countries and places such as China, Ireland, Malaysia, Costa Rica and Romania,

Dr. Glassman has a special place in his heart for Barcelona, Istanbul, and Amsterdam – perhaps because his favourite thing to do is walk for exercise while exploring.

"I love the culture, the museums, and the outdoor cafes. These are amazing walking cities and I just can't wait to explore and talk to local people. I relish the chance to visit these places." He adds, "I absolutely love travelling with my kids. Whenever I travel for business I have so much fun when I bring them along. Whether it is Washington, D.C., with my son, Cory, and attending an NHL or NFL game, or Las Vegas or New York with one of my daughters, Jaime or Jordana, catching a show. I am so proud of my kids. They are the light of my life. I like to spend as much time with them as possible."

But his absolute favourite place to be is not too far from home and his eyes light up at its mention.

"I have a little log cabin that I spend a lot of time at during the summer. It is on an island in Killarney Provincial Park. It's my retreat."

The hectic schedule at Dr. Glassman's downtown Yorkville practice consists of not only seeing patients, but actual lectures in the state of the art learning facility within his practice. His time will soon be divided yet again after a recent investment in a vineyard in Mendoza, Argentina.

"My favourites are Malbecs, which Argentina is known for. We bought four hectares of a vineyard in the most prime area in Mendoza, surrounded by well-known wine producers, and we just harvested some Chardonnay and Malbec. It's exciting," he says with an animated expression that reveals just how much. Having mentioned earlier he could not live without his wine cellar, his foray into wine production is an intriguing turn. He smiles, his eyes descriptively reminiscent, before saying, "Going through my wine collection helps jog my memories of the great experiences I have of globe trotting."

But even with a license to drill, and an arsenal of oral health expertise, learning that Dr. G's altruism fuels his ambition is what left us grinning from ear to ear. Now you can keep up with his tireless journey around the globe on Twitter @doctorg007.