

FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURS

Lose inches with the lipo laser

The Daily Courier charts the growth of entrepreneurial efforts in the Central Okanagan with this report about business starts

By **STEVE MacNAULL**
The Daily Courier

Imagine making your fat cells smaller so you lose weight, trim inches and look and feel better.

That's what the team at Okanagan Lipo Laser Centre and Spa in Kelowna offers with its Lapex 2000 lipo laser machine.

"Rather than the surgical removal of fat with liposuction, the Lapex 2000 uses two paddles to send low-level laser into problem areas like the stomach and butt," said co-owner Jason Ackerman.

"The laser effectively pokes holes in fat cells and the fat goes to the lymph nodes to be burned off next time you exercise."

The average patient loses two inches in eight one-hour treatments.

It's not cheap at \$699 for the eight treatments, but it's certainly less expensive and invasive than surgical liposuction.

The other advantage is that people who would never consider surgical liposuction because it's too drastic or because they aren't that fat, can use lipo laser for smaller jobs and targeted trimming.

"We see all kinds of people use it," said Ackerman.

"We have women who want to target their legs and butt, men who



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The team at Okanagan Lipo Laser Centre and Spa in Kelowna is, from left, Tina Lea, Mike Quinn and Shirleen and Jason Ackerman.

target their stomachs and even their man boobs, and 26-year-old girls with great figures who just want a little tightening."

Ackerman and his wife, Shirleen, along with business partner Michael Quinn, bought the \$40,000 Lapex 2000 last year because they thought it was revolutionary and would make a good business.

However, before getting a retail location, the machine was at the Ackerman's house where they offered treatments to family and friends as a pilot project to monitor results and see if it was viable as a business.

The decision was to make the effective Lapex 2000 the marquee piece of equipment, but also build an entire spa around it to offer a wide range of treatments and services to customers.

A prime downtown location at

444 Bernard Ave. was chosen.

Also offered is unlimited infrared sauna for \$30 a month, unlimited stand up tanning for \$25 a month, massages, facials, manicures and pedicures, detoxification steam room, whole body vibration and an inversion table to flip you upside down and stretch out aches and pains.

Ackerman is a landlord with 22 properties, who made a trip to India for a yoga holiday and came back wanting to set up some sort of spa-wellness business.

His wife Shirleen is in nuclear medicine and works part time at Kelowna General Hospital.

Business partner Quinn is an ex-realtor who saw the potential in the rapidly growing wellness and spa industry.

Okanagan Lipo Laser Centre and Spa can be reached at 250-868-9800.