

# Faux REAL

*Permanent makeup artist helps injured people look normal again.*

BY CHARMAINE GOODEN, BEAUTY EXPERT

Three years ago Laura Dowdell, an employment councillor, was involved in a car accident which injured her face and resulted in a condition called road rash. Road rash is the result of skin hitting against pavement, causing debris, dirt and asphalt to be embedded deep in the dermis. Her left cheek had sustained the injury and was left with a gray undertone. Though she sought the help of plastic surgeons and micro-dermabrasion skin resurfacing, it was impossible to remove the deeply embedded debris. "All my scars were healing nicely but nothing could be done to camouflage the grayness," says Dowdell. "Then a surgeon suggested seeing Dorothy Kizoff, it was my last option." Over seven treatments, Kizoff was able to tattoo the grayness with pigments to perfectly match Dowdell's original skin colour. "It reduced the gray tone so I don't have to wear as much makeup anymore. Dorothy helped me in a way that no one else could."

## Tattoos going medical

Permanent Make-up Artist Dorothy Kizoff



Road Rash

Before



After

recently celebrated her 15th anniversary in business at the Yorkville studio location where she began. "The word 'tattoo' was such a taboo when we began in 1991" she says. As micro pigmentation evolved over the years, she pioneered its use as a Paramedical application to colour scars, burns, skin grafts and facial deformities, restoring a more 'normal' appearance. Today, Kizoff works with over 30 plastic surgeons and dermatologists, and three major hospitals.

For the last 10 years, Cosmetic Plastic Surgeon Dr. Steve Samuel, has been referring patients with scars or pigment irregularities that are better treated non-surgically. "I recently saw a young lady who has multiple scars on her face that could not be improved surgically," says Dr. Samuel. "Dorothy tattooed these scars with pigments that matched the injured areas of the skin and this camouflaged the scars very significantly."

What sets Dorothy apart, according to Dr. Samuel, is her "extensive training in medical tattoo procedures, specifically oriented toward medical enhancement. For example,

during post mastectomy reconstruction, some women have their nipples mimicked by tattoo. Dorothy does excellent post mastectomy tattooing. She is much more experienced as well as better trained than most individuals working in tattoo parlours."

## The process

Kizoff begins each session by consulting with the patient to find out what their expectations are and assess what can be realistically achieved. Next, the skin is thoroughly cleansed. Topical freezing is not used because it changes the colour of the skin and would not be an accurate match. "Fortunately", she says, "scar tissue is usually less sensitive".

*It has allowed me to function normally in the world without people knowing what I went through.*

Using a small hand-held machine with needles that move over the skin at a rate of up to 100 perforations per minute, Kizoff works on the affected area carefully as the perforations create a vacuum against the skin, effectively sucking the pigment into the dermis. Pigments are made of iron oxide and blended with glycerin, distilled water and other patented ingredients. She begins by applying a lighter and thinner amount of pigment, gradually adding more colour and depth.



Hot Oil Burn

Before



After

## The success

Anna Paudyn, a retired chemist, was burned by nitric acid in a laboratory accident, disfiguring her forehead, the left side of her face and her left eye. She lost her eyebrows, eyelashes and her skin was discoloured. After seven surgical operations, there was no improvement in these areas and she sank into a depression. As a last resort, a dermatologist at Sunnybrook hospital recommended a consultation with Kizoff.

"Dorothy totally reconstructed my face," says Paudyn, who initially had 50 - 60 sessions to fix her forehead, cheeks, eyebrows and mouth, and has touchups twice a year. "She gave me eyebrows, put makeup around my eyes, and tattooed the colour of my normal skin to the burned side. The results are tremendous and my self-esteem has improved a lot. It has allowed me to function normally in the world without people knowing what I went through. As a result of the accident I have low vision and can't do camouflage makeup well because I can't really see what I'm doing. Permanent makeup is important to people with low vision."

Kizoff says her work is currently covered by Workmen's Compensation and car insurance policies. She is working with a few doctors to implement a system whereby referrals would be covered under OHIP. "My mission is to educate the medical community that this is a benefit to their treatment - it's often a last resort and I know it makes a world of difference." **H&L**