

## Lori McDonald

*Nominator: Kathy McCarthy*

I know a Dental Hygiene Superhero! I'd like to share the story of a very special woman. Lori McDonald, RDH. Lori wanted to be a dental hygienist since she was a young girl. In high school she was such a strong student. But the guidance counsellor suggested she could do more. They talked her out of dental hygiene. Really!! Even as a strong University student it wasn't what she wanted. She decided to get married and had 3 beautiful children. Circumstances changed, and she raised those children on her own. Now Lori needed a job. With the support of her family, she went back to school to do what she had always wanted to do. It wasn't easy as an adult student with young children. She worked hard. She was well liked by her teachers and classmates. She graduated and became a Registered Dental Hygienist. She found work quickly in a dental office. It was good for a while, but it just wasn't fulfilling to her. Lori left with a sincere thank you for the opportunity, a handshake and gave up a well paying full time job. She invested in her own independent dental hygiene mobile practice. She provides dental hygiene care to the elderly in senior care facilities, people with disabilities in their homes, people for whatever reason just can't get out to a Dentist office, even people that are just too busy. She goes to them. Provides care to each, in their own individual comfort levels. She treats every client with respect and compassion. No matter the socioeconomic status. Children love her. The elderly and their families love her. People that are afraid of having their teeth cleaned aren't afraid anymore and welcome her to come again. Her business grows mostly by word of mouth. But, she had some free time. So, she researched and found a need. The First Nation communities of Northern Ontario are in desperate need of dental health care. The Inuit communities of Nunavut (Really Northern) Canada are also in great need of dental health care. So now with her children grown, through CDHA & ODA she flies to these communities. Travelling on her own, arriving at first, knowing no one. Setting up the clinic and her temporary home. She stays for 2 weeks usually. Sometimes longer. Working with community assistants, travelling Dentists and Registered Nurses. Providing non-judgmental dental hygiene care and the needed education of good dental health. Lori lives

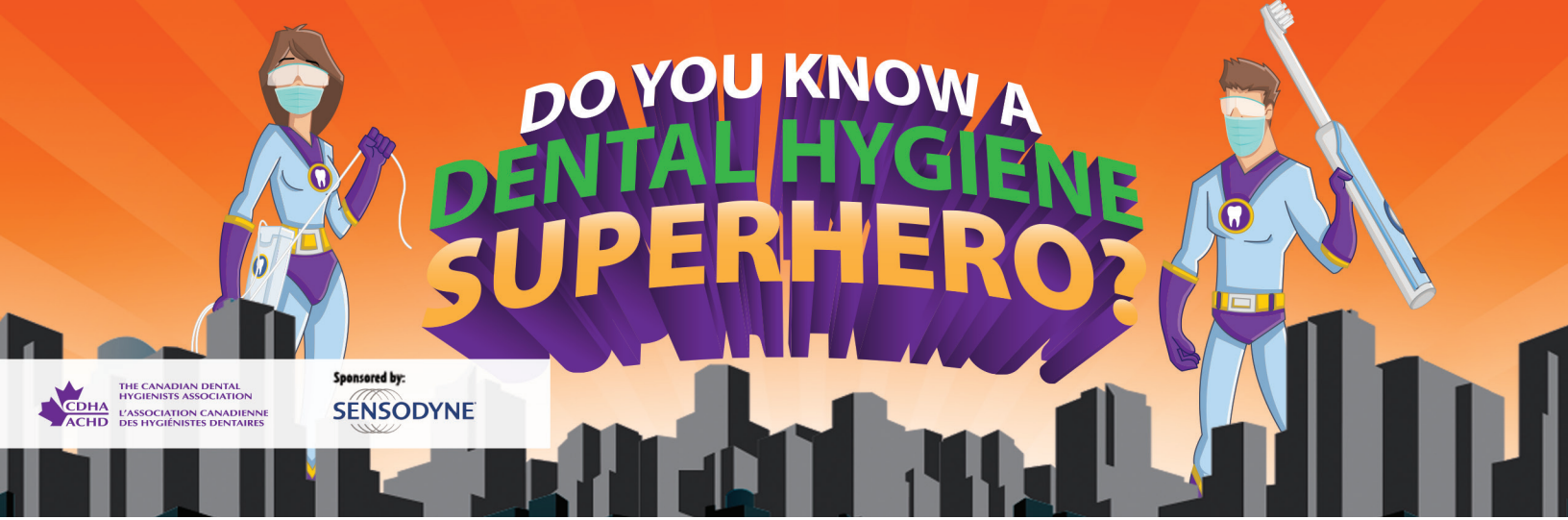


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right in the northern community with the people that so desperately need her help. Visiting their schools. Living in temporary housing and weather conditions that most of us wouldn't even consider. Flying around in these small planes affected by bad weather and cold temperatures. Back and forth between "The North" and her family here in Southern Ontario. Weather permitting of course. As she has been stranded for days due to weather. When home between trips North, she cares for her home and children, takes care of her clients here, helps with her parents (as she is the closest to them when home) and her extended family. When people say WOW how does she do it? Why does she do it? Her answer is always the same. "I LOVE IT"



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