

Stylist brings new hair services to Kelowna

Ever dream of poker straight hair, à la Jennifer Aniston or Avril Lavigne? Hair that never frizzes, curls or waves, even in the most humid conditions? Even straight out of the pool? Help is on the way.

A revolutionary process that relaxes hair without damaging it, leaving silky, straight tresses, is now available in Kelowna.

When In Style Hair Care opens tomorrow (July 22), it will offer a thermal reconditioning treatment that effectively repairs hair and leaves it kink-free for up to six months.

Owner Anju Dhillon, the first Canadian hairdresser to offer the treatment, has moved her six-year-old salon from Surrey to Kelowna, and will offer the same, popular service at her new shop, at 577 Lawrence Avenue, downtown in Kelowna.

Dhillon, who has medium curls that tend to frizz, first heard about thermal reconditioning through a friend, who'd heard it was all the rage in Japan. After months of researching, Dhillon found a salon that offered the treatment in Beverly Hills. Desperate for a straight, glossy mane, she flew straight down to try it.

An immediate convert, Dhillon

then took a course there, introducing the technique to Canada via her Surrey salon in February 2002. When word got out, she was booked solid.

"I saw a need for this," she said. "There was nothing out there like this for people with naturally curly hair."

Dhillon uses two systems – the Yuko System, patented in Japan in 1996, and the Bio Ionic Ion Retexturizing System. Both can be controlled by the stylist, to keep some waves and remove only frizziness, or get the hair completely straight.

The process begins with a protein solution application, followed by ironing the hair in very small sections. Once it's completed, clients need to keep their hair completely dry and straight for up to 48 hours, as the chemicals continue to activate.

Depending on the texture of the hair, the effect can last for close to a year, although most clients are ready for a re-do every six to eight months. While the cost runs between \$300-800 and sessions can take from four to six hours (depending on the amount and length of hair), Dhillon says the value of being able to wake up and have their hair ready in five minutes, without having to fuss with dryers and straighteners, is priceless to her clients – and to her.

While straightening hair has kept Dhillon busy almost exclusively since she started offering the service, In Style offers more than just straight locks. Like most salons, the three-stylist shop offers cuts, colours and perms as well.

Dhillon also specializes in colour correction, rescuing clients who have gone too dark or too light, or inadvertently orange or green. The only Global Wide East Indian Colour Tech in Schwarzkopf Professionals, Dhillon was also one of only six educators in B.C.

"I specialize in chemicals," she explained. "That's my passion - I love to do it."

In addition to hairstyling, Dhillon will also launch an eyebrow threading and waxing service, as well as quick and easy henna body tattoos.

Henna is commonly used in East Indian weddings, and the paste can take hours to dry. In Style has henna stickers that dry in five minutes – a new trend that helps to keep an old tradition alive, even during a time crunch.

"There's more time to party the night away," Dhillon said.

Dhillon made the move to Kelowna with her family in May, to get away from the big city and into a more natural community, with nature close at hand. She says



Anju Dhillon's new In Style salon at 577 Lawrence Ave. offers hair straightening and other new services.

she's excited about bringing the same shop and services she had in Surrey to a new place. And, she's looking forward to discovering what new techniques she can introduce once she's settled in.

"I'm the kind who's always watching, to see what people need. When I identify that, I go after it to bring something new to my services. It keeps things interesting for me, as well as my cliental."