



Laura Mihailescu, Milton, Ontario

Laura is a superhero in many aspects of her life. She puts her heart into her work, family, community, and pets. At work, she is dedicated, professional, and kind to everyone she meets. She is the dental hygiene superhero we all deserve!

She gives each of her patients her undivided attention and her patience to listen to all their concerns and make them feel at ease during their time with her. She is passionate about educating her patients, especially the youngest ones, to help instill good oral hygiene habits and empower them to take care of themselves and their families. She always explains every step that she is doing, answers all my questions, and makes everyone feel welcome in her chair. I have seen children in the waiting room who are scared of the dentist light up when they see her walking down the hallway and call out their name. She always has a new movie to play for them, like Sleeping Beauty, and new stories to share that keep them relaxed and entertained.

She is always learning new ways to improve her practice and, each time I visit her office, she has new posters up about periodontitis, cavities, and other common ailments, which she uses to help her patients visually understand what she is explaining. She is always caring and makes you feel comfortable in the office and in her chair.

Laura decided to pursue this career later in life following her background in engineering. She always felt her heart belonged in health care and so decided to make the change to get involved with people, demonstrate her compassion, and help improve people's health and well-being. Her resilience and dedication were evident throughout her training and follow her to this day. She was top of her class during her training and is now a top-class RDH! I have been her patient since the very beginning almost 15 years ago and, every time I see her, I am impressed by her professionalism, compassion, and excellent care!



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Outside of the dedication she puts into her work and caring for her patients, Laura is also happy to give back and support her community in other ways. Even while being off work, she feels compelled to continue helping her community during the COVID-19 crisis. She has created donation baskets for long-term care homes in her community with masks, gloves, disinfectants, wipes, and other products that she has access to in order to help the frontline staff working in the environments that have been hit the hardest and with the most vulnerable populations.

She is a volunteer with Gift from the Heart, which offers no-cost dental hygiene care to help those who face barriers to accessing dental care. This year she motivated her coworkers to get involved with the initiative as well. She is a strong advocate for everyone who is less fortunate or who faces significant barriers to the care they deserve. She has also volunteered her time at the Bob Rumball Canadian Centre of Excellence for the Deaf and has gone to daycares and preschools to teach mothers about oral care for babies and to teach kids how to brush their teeth. Throughout all her endeavours, she is energized, passionate, and strives to make a difference.

Ultimately, Laura is just so motivated and proud of her career. This Halloween, she dressed up as a "Dental Fairy" complete with her own decorated t-shirt with a big tooth on it, and plenty of teeth and toothbrush stickers to hand out. She loves every aspect of her job and is always looking to learn new things about oral and health care. She is so interested to find out how oral care is related to the rest of the body, and you can tell she is so excited to share what she has learned.

I hope to be as passionate and motivated as she is and to make a difference as she continues to do. She has made a difference in so many people's lives, including my own, and I am so grateful to have Laura as my dental hygienist. She is my personal superhero, and I think she is the ultimate dental hygiene superhero!

I would like to nominate Laura Mihailescu for the Dental Hygiene Superhero award. Laura Mihailescu has been my dental hygienist for 5 years and I can sincerely say that her passion, dedication, and thoughtfulness make her most deserving of this award.

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Laura first and foremost makes you feel like a friend, before a client. Her smile is contagious, and her positive attitude makes you feel comfortable and happy to be at the dentist. Her everyday approach as a dental hygienist is “how can I continue to become better, and how can I help my patients become better?”. Even though Laura is one of the most experienced dental hygienists (and graduated top of her class), her studious approach to the profession ensures that she is always one step ahead in being able to provide the best care for her patients. She does this by attending conferences and tradeshow, reading books, and keeping up with the most innovative research in the industry regarding not only oral health, but also overall health.

Part of what makes Laura so deserving of this award is her ability to listen. She knows that, in order to best help her patients, she must understand them. While listening to their challenges, Laura educates her clients on different techniques to overcome these challenges. She works alongside her clients to develop plans that will help them achieve their oral health goals. Her compassion ensures that she is able to motivate and educate in a manner that is genuine, and she does not judge if her patients fall short of achieving their goals. While she holds her patients accountable, it is her extraordinary patience that allows everyone around her to get better and feel like they have the support needed to achieve their goals. Her fun, upbeat character makes Laura a favorite amongst adults, teens, and especially young children.

Laura’s kind-hearted, caring, and affectionate nature are amongst the reasons she is the true, ultimate Dental Hygiene Superhero.



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