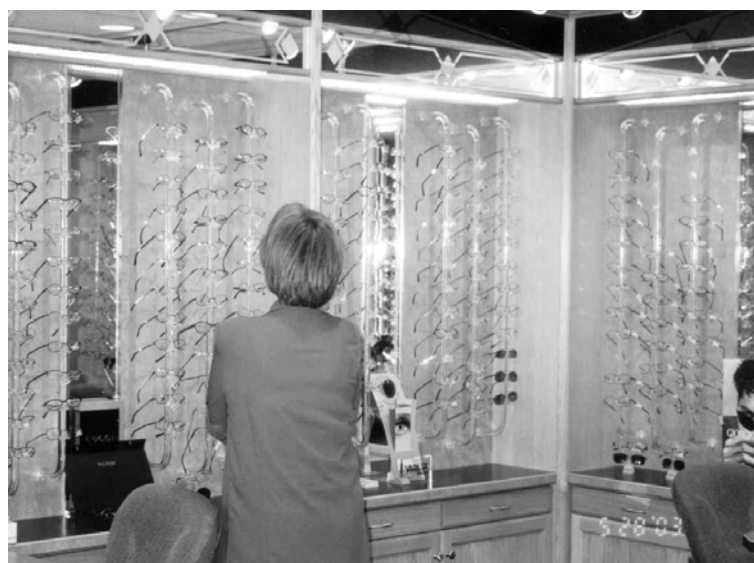

Sharing SBLA Success Stories

Esterhazy Success Story

Dr. Nathan Knezacek - Optometrist

Esterhazy and area residents now have access to a full range of eye care services and products thanks to Dr. Nathan Knezacek. Nathan grew up in Esterhazy and is a graduate of Esterhazy High School. He completed his optometry degree at the University of Waterloo in 1999, and has been practicing optometry in Regina as one of four partners in the Family Eye Care Centre.



The Town of Esterhazy was looking for an optometrist and, after much encouragement, Nathan decided to fulfil this need for the town of Esterhazy and open an office. He purchased a building in town and, in June 2002, Nathan applied for and received a loan from the Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) program administered by the Esterhazy Economic Development Co-operative Ltd. to help with the renovations.

Nathan is in the office one to two days a week and two Saturdays a month. He employs an office manager, who can be reached from 9 to 5 every day and opens the office from 1 to 5 to allow people to pick up their glasses and book appointments. In addition to the office manager, there is a licensed optician and two other optometric assistants who come in on patient days to meet client needs.

The office offers a full range of eye care including laser surgery referrals. They carry approximately 700 frames (economically priced and high-end designer frames) in their dispensary, as well as a large selection of quality sunglasses for adults and children.