

M E D I A R E L E A S E

‘The Cottage’ therapy centre opens in Pickering Village Services focus on children with autism

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Ajax, ON – An innovative therapy centre for children and youth with autism opens here in May.

‘The Cottage’, on the north side of Kingston Road, just east of Church Street in Pickering Village, is the latest addition to programs and services offered by Exceptional Learning Centre, which currently operates locations in both Ajax and Richmond Hill.

The Cottage focuses on programs and services for children and youth with autism. Autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life resulting from a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain. Children and adults with autism typically have difficulties with verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities.

“Ours is one of the few centres in Durham Region dedicated to serve children and youth with autism,” says June Ferguson, general manager and co-owner of Exceptional Learning Centre. “There’s a great need for this type of service as autism is one of the most common developmental disabilities.” Currently, there are approximately 70,000 individuals in Ontario living with autism.

The Cottage, so named because of the building’s cozy feeling, was previously a residence and features a large yard area where children can play.

“We’ll be able to provide a range of outdoor activities that are important to the development of our children’s social skills” says Ferguson.

“Our new location provides a home-like setting,” explains Lorraine Lewis, the centre’s director of educational services and co-owner. “We’ve been searching for the right spot for a couple of years and we love the neighbourhood atmosphere here.”

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Exceptional Learning Centre, established in 1997, provides education, speech & language therapy and behaviour therapy to children and youth with unique learning needs. The

centre operates a school from kindergarten to Grade 8, academic tutoring, social skills groups and camp programs, speech & language therapy and behavior therapy services.

“With expertise, experience and care, each member of the team works hard to provide every person with the individual attention needed to develop to his or her maximum potential,” explains Ferguson.

For more information about Exceptional Learning Centre, visit the website at:
www.exlcentre.com