



Unionville's Premier Retirement Residence invites you to our

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, Sept. 28
2pm to 4pm

Come enjoy live music & great food!!
Ask about our Pop and Win.

Join us for a special seminar on Memory Care and learn about our "Flourishing Together Program", delivered by VP of Life Enrichment, Baybridge Senior Living, 2pm.

TOURS AVAILABLE DAILY
 Visit 34 Main Street, Unionville,
 themarleigh.ca or call 905-947-9990.



A BAYBRIDGE SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

FAMILY: Children, parents meeting place

New location, same motto for Stouffville Tot Spot

Stouffville Tot Spot is about to begin a new season - but with several changes for the group that has been in existence in Stouffville for more than 30 years.

The non-profit co-operative play group will be moving to EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church and adding more age-appropriate programming for infants to preschoolers.

"While some of the specific needs of the group have changed since the 1980s, the role it plays in the community remains the same," said Lesley Elliott, a member of the executive committee that oversees the operation.

"We are a group that connects children and their caregivers - moms, dads, grandparents or nannies - to others in their community. We strive to create a place where we have a circle of support for caregivers and children get the social, emotional and educational benefits of interacting with their peers, our program leader and other adults."

Whitchurch-Stouffville is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Canada and groups such as Tot Spot can help keep the small-town feel alive, she said.

Testimonials posted on the Tot Spot website from present and past members reveal that joining the group filled a void for many caregivers looking for a place to go with children's programming that also benefits the adults looking to get to know others in their community.

"At times, caregivers of young children can feel isolated at home, especially those who have just moved into the area or those on parental leave having just switched modes from work life to being at home with a baby," said Mrs. Elliott, a mother of two, who moved to Stouffville when her oldest was 6 weeks old.

"Having the opportunity to get out the house and meet other people whose daily routine is also focused on taking care of young ones has been very helpful. They can understand what you are going through."

While the majority of the membership is female, men are always welcome.

"The dads and grandpas we've had come

with children in their care actually tend to get quite a bit of attention from the kids," said Dawn Smith, a mother of three and member since 2009. "We know there are men in the area who are at home with kids or grandkids, but their population doesn't seem to be as well represented at play groups. It's unfortunate, because they could benefit from being a part of a group like ours just as much as the female caregivers."

The daily program is centered around the children - play-based learning activities, crafts, songs, story time and more. The caregivers at times are actively involved with their children in activities and crafts and at other times get a front row seat.

"It's great when you can have a coffee and catch up with other members while watching your child interact with other kids as well as other caregivers," said Mrs. Smith.

For most of these children, their first interaction with a teacher will take place at Tot Spot and one of the goals of the play group is to have these first interactions be positive.

"We have been lucky to have had some great teachers in the past at Tot Spot," said Mrs. Elliott. "Program leader Miss Nora will continue to enrich our group with her enthusiasm and creativity."

"In addition to providing age-appropriate programming and encouraging independent play with their peers, we also create an environment where caregivers can engage their children and share in their learning opportunities," said Miss Nora, also a mother of two with an extensive background in programming at home-based daycares, children's groups and camps. "Kids follow the lead their caregivers set. If we, as adults, show an interest in learning, kids will too."

Formerly located at Stouffville United Church, Tot Spot has moved to EastRidge at 12485 Tenth Line. A free open house will be held Sept. 17 to 20, from 9:15 to 11 a.m. each day. You can e-mail stouffilletotspot@gmail.com or visit www.stouffilletotspot.com for details, including membership fees.

Need Help To Buy A Car?

New to the country?
Do you have past credit issues?
Did your car break down?
Divorce?
Bankruptcy?

ANY MAKE OR MODEL
 OVER 150 VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM
 Starting from \$99* down
 \$99* + taxes Biweekly
 Rates as low as 5.99%*

Contact Henry He or Kyle Li
 1-866-980-3238 or 905-415-2260

LONGMAN'S WOODBINE CHRYSLER
 8280 Woodbine Ave. (Woodbine Ave South of Hwy 7, just North of the 407)