

Milton Success Stories

HearSay Speech & Hearing Centre Improving Your Quality of Life



Did you know that May is Better Speech & Hearing Month? At the HearSay Speech & Hearing Centre we care about your speech, language and hearing needs.

"Many people are unaware of the impact speech, language and hearing difficulties have on daily life skills. Imagine not being able to communicate your feelings or needs. What if you could not hear what

someone was saying? Your quality of life would be greatly affected."

We invite you to visit our family-owned clinic. Our friendly, professional staff can answer your questions regarding any concerns you may have.

Almost one year has passed since the HearSay Speech & Hearing Centre opened its doors to the community of Milton. As the incidence of speech, language and hearing difficulties continue to rise, owners Rui and Yvonne Oliveira, and staff work together to service the language and audiology needs of their clients. Says Yvonne Oliveira, "Parents in the Milton and Halton region have been frustrated by increasingly lengthy wait lists for publicly funded speech programs and have found it difficult to access consistent speech therapy." Oliveira is one of only seven dually certified Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in Canada, and has worked extensively on speech, language and listening goals, both with hearing and deafened or hard of hearing clients, from children to adults. Also certified as an Auditory-Verbal therapist, Yvonne works with families and children with a goal to increasing the use of their residual hearing by way of amplification and/or cochlear implant technology.

Rui Oliveira, a certified Audiologist, and Yvonne's business partner and husband, provides complete diagnostic hearing

evaluations, from hearing testing to the fitting of hearing aids. According to Rui, a growing number of baby boomers are reaching retirement age and finding they cannot hear as well as they used to, be that from the natural aging process, work related hearing loss, or from merely having attended too many loud concerts in their younger years. Says Oliveira, "Many people are not even aware that they have hearing loss because it has happened gradually over the years." Add to that the fact that audiology services are no longer covered by OHIP, people are discouraged from having their hearing evaluated on a regular basis. It is for this reason, that HearSay is offering free hearing testing for a limited time only. The cost of hearing aids, along with the technology in hearing aids has improved significantly over the last few years. There are a variety of styles and price ranges which can fit any budget. Many people also do not realize that despite delisting audiology testing fees, the government does still cover the first \$500 of the price of a hearing aid (\$1000 if two hearing aids are needed). HearSay also offers a 30 day trial period when purchasing hearing aids to assure customer satisfaction.

Nancy Oliveira, Speech-Language Pathologist, and sister of Rui Oliveira, also works at HearSay making the clinic truly a family affair. A recent graduate of the Speech-Language Pathology program at the University of Toronto, Nancy services the

speech and language needs of children and adults. Her areas of interest include stuttering, voice disorders, apraxia, articulation and language disorders.

The HearSay Speech & Hearing Centre offers a wide array of services including speech and language assessments and therapy as well as hearing testing, hearing aid evaluations and fittings and auditory processing testing. A number of ongoing workshops are also available including:

- Orientation to hearing aids for new hearing aid users and their families P
- Parent-child language programs for preschoolers and children with language delays
- Specialized music-speech programs for children and teens with language delays, as well as various special needs populations
- Parent-child sign language programs.

HearSay has in stock hearing aid batteries, and can service and prescribe hearing aids from any of the numerous hearing aid manufacturers. Ear flushing as well as custom ear protection (swimplugs) and musician earplugs are also available.

Feel free to stop in and meet the friendly staff. Office Manager, Karen Barcomb, has knowledge of American Sign Language (ASL) and is available to answer questions and book appointments.