



OPSEU employees from the Niagara Escarpment Commission office in Georgetown walk the picket line outside the Guelphview Square building on Guelph St. Thursday morning. The employees, members of OPSEU Local 227, joined 45,000 provincial public service employees who are hoping to reach a contract settlement with the provincial government. The impact of the strike is also being felt at the Georgetown Driver and Vehicle Licence Office where drivers may have a hard time getting their licence renewed.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

## OPSEU pickets walking the line

Employees from the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) office in Georgetown have hit the picket lines along with 45,000 other provincial public service employees.

While the office remained open, Norrine Burns, steward for OPSEU Local 227, said Thursday the 17 unionized employees from the office— including planners, clerical, mapping and communications staff— were out on strike.

Burns said pension is one of the strikers' biggest issues.

She said the government wants to eliminate early retirement options for employees and have total control of the surplus in their pension fund.

Other issues include benefits and wages.

Burns said pickets will be set up at all entrances to the Niagara Escarpment Commission office throughout the strike. She

said while they are blocking the entrances for NEC staff, they are not blocking the public.

The OPSEU strike is also impacting many other services.

Dave Clark, issuing agent at Driver and Vehicle Licence Office in Georgetown, said, due to the strike, new and replacement driver's licences won't be issued.

However, if your driver's licence is expiring during the strike it will remain valid until the strike is over. But if your licence expired the day before the strike and hadn't been renewed, Clark said you are out of luck.

He said they can issue licence plate stickers as long as you have all the original paperwork.

During the strike Clark said they can't do debit and credit card transactions. The office will remain open.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

**IT'S WORTH THE DRIVE**  
TO

**Under \$3000**

**1989 DODGE DAKOTA**  
**ACTON MOTORS**  
**853-1280**

**GEORGETOWN HONDA**


**'98 CRV LX**  
Auto, C/D  
Balance of Factory Warranty  
**ONLY \$18,444**  
Ask for Dave

Call Dave Hayes at Used Cars  
**905-873-1239**  
203 GUELPH ST., GEORGETOWN

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY  
Ontario Division

**KIDS GET ARTHRITIS TOO.**

Please help us find the cure!  
To donate, or for more information, call  
1-800-321-1433



**WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH CENTRE**

Etobicoke Hospital Campus  
Brampton Memorial Hospital Campus  
Georgetown Hospital Campus  
[www.williamoslerhc.on.ca](http://www.williamoslerhc.on.ca)

**INVITATION**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO DESIGN, BUILD, FINANCE, OWN AND MAINTAIN A NEW 608 BED HOSPITAL IN BRAMPTON, ONTARIO**

**William Osler Health Centre** is inviting interested parties to submit an expression of interest in a Public Private Partnership relating to the design, construction, financing, ownership and maintenance of a new hospital.

The project design calls for approximately 1,200,000 square feet of space on a "Greenfield" site in Brampton, Ontario.

Interested parties should have relevant experience in North American hospital facilities and appropriate financial strength or backing.

William Osler Health Centre, Ontario's largest community hospital corporation has three full service acute care campuses in Etobicoke, Brampton and Georgetown, with plans to build a fourth hospital. Providing services to Ontario's fastest growing regions, William Osler Health Centre is undertaking one of the largest redevelopment projects in the Province. As Ontario's first new hospital to be built using a public/private partnership model, William Osler Health Centre again leads the way to the future - a future where William Osler Health Centre will be the model for healthcare delivery.

For the Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) document or for further information, please contact Philip Smith, Director Shared Services West at 905-796-4247, by fax at 905-796-4054 or e-mail [philip\\_smith@ssw.ca](mailto:philip_smith@ssw.ca)


Closing date for the RFEI is April 26, 2002.

**EASTER COLOURING CONTEST**

Name ..... Phone .....

Address ..... Age .....

Colour this picture, bring it in to our office and you'll be entered into a draw for 1 of 3 "real cool" gift packages. Also, when you bring in your coloured picture, you will receive an Easter gift bag (limit of one per child). Contest is open to children 12 years old and under in the Halton Hills area. It is **not restricted** to the children of Co-operators clients.



**Ray Johnson & Associates Inc.**  
Insurance/Financial Services  
211 Guelph Street,  
Georgetown  
**(905) 877-0131**  
"Your Georgetown/Acton Co-operators Agency"

Ray Johnson, CFP  
(Certified Financial Planner)

**the co-operators**  
A Better Place For You™