

# Home health care workers could strike in new year

Community Access provides care for 23,000 York Region clients

BY CHRIS TRABER  
Staff Writer

Central Community Care Access Centre and Ontario Nurses Association representatives are hopeful mediation will stem a strike that could jeopardize home health care for 23,000 York Region clients.

Last week, the union's 645 members working for the central CCAC overwhelmingly rejected a final offer, association president Linda Haslam-Stroud said.

The two sides, negotiating a deal since 2007, will go to a last-ditch arbitration with the Labour Ministry in December, she added.

If a provincial mediator can't reach a compromise, the union can walk off the job next month. CCAC has an office in Stouffville.

Case managers and support staff are looking for a collective agreement that offers respect and recognition of their skills and expertise in providing care to their clients, Ms Haslam-Stroud said.

"They have been negotiating in good faith and are anxious to secure a collective agreement so that their clients will not suffer if these health care workers are forced to withdraw their services and go on strike," she said. "A strike is the only option if a settlement is not reached."

The nurses and the employer are speaking now to arrange a mediation session in an attempt to reach an agreement.

"Two main issues are in dispute; salary harmonization and benefits."

Central CCAC executive director Cathy Szabo said she could not comment on issues.

"We're still negotiating," she said. "We have a good relationship with the union and we're now waiting for a date with the Labour Relations Board."

We want to negotiate a settlement. I'm absolutely confident, as is our bargaining

## 'Two main issues are in dispute; salary harmonization and benefits.'

Linda Haslam-Stroud  
union president

team, that we can negotiate a fair agreement."

CCAC workers provide a local point of access to community-based health care and personal support services for more than 1.6 million people in their catchment area.

They help ensure residents live independently at home or assist them in making the transition from hospital to home or long-term care homes. The CCAC also co-ordinates services available in the community and assists residents in accessing the appropriate services.

Bargaining began for a first collective agreement one year ago.

The CCAC was formed when five separate bargaining units were merged as part of the realignment of health care services when Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) were created.

"We hope that the employer will remember who matters most; our clients," Ms Haslam-Stroud said.

"It's time to negotiate a collective agreement that provides the respect and recognition case managers and allied health professionals deserve so they can continue to provide the services our clients count on."

ONA is the union representing 54,000 registered nurses and allied health professionals working in hospitals, long-term care, public health, the community and industry.

For information on the CCAC and union, visit [ccac-ont.ca](http://ccac-ont.ca) or [ona.org](http://ona.org)

# E-waste diversion tops 500 tonnes

Regionwide drop-off depots ensure items diverted from landfill

BY CHRIS TRABER  
Staff Writer

Is your electronic waste getting to the right place?

The Regional Municipality of York reminds you that electronic waste, such as cellphones, computers, printers and game systems can be dropped off free of charge at four public waste depots throughout York Region.

Electronic materials can contain harmful substances such as mercury, lead and cadmium. Taking e-waste to one of the region's depots rather than dropping it at the curb ensures materials will be recycled, reused or responsibly disposed of, all while diverting unnecessary waste from landfill.

All companies that recycle electronic materials on behalf of York Region comply with the Basal Convention, an international agreement signed by Canada that ensures hazardous waste, including electronics, will not be exported to non-developed nations.

Over 536 tonnes of electronic waste was collected at York Region depots in 2007.

Drop off depots include:

- 23068 Warden Ave., Town of Georgina,
- 225 Garfield Wright Blvd., Town of East Gwillimbury
- West side of Rodick Road between 14th Avenue and Miller Avenue, Town of Markham
- 2840 Rutherford Rd., City of Vaughan

Materials accepted at York Region depots include:

- Computers, including modems, attachments, cables and software
  - Disks, CDs and DVDs
  - Monitors, printers, scanners, electronic video games
  - Telephones, pagers, fax machines
  - VCRs, DVD players, radios, stereos without audio speakers,
  - Digital cameras, automobile computer modules and camcorders
- Materials not accepted include:
- Televisions
  - Audio speakers
  - Electric typewriters
  - Electric calculators
  - Audio speakers from stereos and automobiles
  - Conventional cameras

These items can be picked up at the curb. Contact your local municipality for pickup details.

While all depots accept e-waste free of charge, certain volume limits do apply. Visit [www.york.ca/waste](http://www.york.ca/waste) to view complete details along with hours of operation for each facility.

For more information on York Region public depots or any other regional waste management initiatives, call 1-877-464-9675 or visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) on line.



## Leisure Services

Email: [leisure.services@townofws.com](mailto:leisure.services@townofws.com)  
Phone: 905-642-PLAY (7529)

### December Fitness Specials

Available for purchase between December 1st and 31st

One month for \$57.75 (including taxes)

One month FREE when you buy any 3 month or 12 month membership.

### Give the Gift of Healthy Living

Gift cards are available for purchase at the Lebovic Leisure Centre and can be used towards all memberships and programs offered by Leisure Services.

### Register for Winter Swim Lessons

Starting on November 26, at 6:00 p.m. for residents and November 27, 6:00 p.m. for non residents.

You can register online at WSPLAY... ONLINE link found on the town homepage, or in person at the Lebovic Leisure Centre. All programs can be viewed on the town website under the Leisure Services tab, or directly through the WSPLAY... ONLINE link.

Registration will continue up until the start of programs, January 5, 2009, but spaces go fast so don't delay!



### PA DAY ACTIVITIES

Join us Friday, November 28

Stouffville Arena:  
FREE MOVIE 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Space Chimps, Rated PG

Public Skate  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Lebovic Leisure Centre:  
Public Swim  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Latcham Hall:

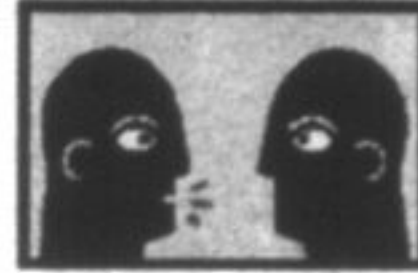
S.P.A. Day  
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For girls ages 11-14. \$35 for a full day of the hottest active living trends, presentation on makeup, cosmetics and cleansing and a healthy lunch with discussion on nutritional issues.



## Library

30 Burkholder Street, Stouffville  
Phone: 905-642-READ (7323) or 1-888-603-4292



### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday, December 3

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Open Discussion

New Members Welcome!



### JOIN US FOR STORY TIME!

Tuesdays and/or Saturdays

10:30-11:00 a.m.

Ages 3-6 yrs



Thursday, November 27  
7:00 p.m.

"Darjeeling Limited"

Three American brothers who have not spoken to each other in a year set off on a train voyage across India with a plan to find themselves and bond with each other.

Rated R for language.

Free admission.



### JOLLY PHONICS

Mondays & Wednesdays,

January 5-April 27

Age 4 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Age 5-6 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Cost \$5/29 classes

Pre-registration is required.

### PA DAY PROGRAMS

Friday, November 28

Art Program with the Latcham Gallery

10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Ages 7-11 Cost \$14/child

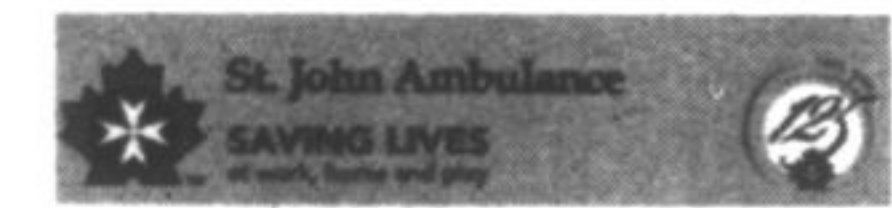
Pre-register with the Latcham Gallery

Movie 1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

"Star wars - The Clone wars"

Rated PG

Free Admission.



### St. John Ambulance Babysitting Course

Saturday, December 13

9:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Age 11 1/2 +

Cost \$55

Pre-registration is required!

## Museum

14732 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley  
Phone: 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337

### 28th Victorian Tea

Friday, November 28th

Reserved Seatings—NEW THIS YEAR

11:30 am, 1:00 pm, & 2:30 pm

TICKETS:

\$10.00 Adult

\$4.00 Children



### Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

14732 Woodbine Avenue in Vandorf

1-888-290-0337 or 905-727-8954 [www.townofws.com/museum](http://www.townofws.com/museum)

Visa or MasterCard accepted

## A Candlelight Christmas

Saturday, December 13

6:30 OR 8:00 p.m.

Join our costumed staff on this enchanting evening tour! Explore the development of Christmas traditions while sampling 19th century foods, entertainment, and decorations in our Pioneer Log Cabin and Victorian Farmhouse. Enjoy a horse-drawn hay ride and then warm up with hot apple cider, traditional baking, and maybe even some Christmas carols.

Due to limited space, advance ticket purchase is required.

Adults: \$15.00, Children: \$10.00



For more information, visit us online:

Town: [www.townofws.com](http://www.townofws.com)  
Library: [www.whitchurch-library.on.ca](http://www.whitchurch-library.on.ca)

