

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All York Region Ontario Works offices (Georgina, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan) will be closed on **Monday, February 21, 2011 to observe Family Day**

OW FINANCIAL

Free Tax Clinics from Monday, February 14 to Thursday, March 31, 2011

Space is limited. Call early in February to book your appointment.

The Chartered Accountants of Ontario offer free income tax preparation to York Region residents with a household income below \$30,000 - with dependents, or an income below \$20,000 - without dependents.

Individuals with rental income and/or business income do not qualify for the Free Tax Clinics program, regardless of the amount of income.

Agency	Coordinator Name	Location	Phone Number
Angus Glen Library	Mr. Steve Buchin	Major Mackenzie/Warden 3990 Major Mackenzie Dr. E. Markham	905-513-7977
Bathurst Clark Resource Library	Mr. Jeff Dodge	Bathurst/Clark 900 Clark Ave. W. Thornhill	905-653-7323
Dufferin Clark Library	Ms. Pamela Hoffman	Dufferin/Clark 1441 Clark Ave. W. Thornhill	905-653-7323
East Gwillimbury Public Library	Ms. Sharon Philip	Mt. Albert Rd./Yonge 19513 Yonge St. Holland Landing	905-836-6492
Georgina Public Libraries-Keswick Branch	Ms. Lynn Lefebvre	Woodbine/Wexford 90 Wexford Dr. Keswick	905-476-5762
Maple Library	Mr. Will McConnell	Keele/Major MacKenzie 10190 Keele St. Maple	905-653-7323
Markham Village Library	Ms. Patty McRory	Hwy 7/Markham 6031 Highway 7 Markham	905-513-7977
Milliken Mills Community Library	Mr. Nick Bludov	14th Ave./Kennedy 7600 Kennedy Rd. Markham	905-513-7977
Newmarket Public Library	Ms. Jennifer Leveridge	Main/Davis 438 Park Ave. Newmarket	905-953-5110
Oak Ridges Moraine Library	Ms. Cathy Peters	King Side Rd./Yonge 13085 Yonge St. Richmond Hill	905-773-5533
Pefferlaw Public Library	Ms. Mary Scott	Hwy 48/Hwy 23 38 Pete's Lane Pefferlaw	705-437-1514
Peter Gzowski Branch Library	Ms. Krista Jorgensen	Hwy 48/High St. 5279 Black River Rd. Sutton	905-772-5702
Pierre Berton Resource Library	Ms. Suli Sun	Islington/Rutherford 4921 Rutherford Rd. Woodbridge	905-653-7323
Richmond Hill Public Library	Ms. Joan Girot	Major Mackenzie/Yonge 1 Atkinson St. Richmond Hill	905-884-9288
The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association	Mr. Peter Cheung	Warden/Steeles 3636 Steeles Ave. E. Markham	905-948-1671
Unionville Library	Ms. Lynda Roxborough	Hwy 7/Kennedy 15 Library Lane Unionville	905-513-7977
Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library	Ms. Catherine Sword	Main/Park 30 Burkholder St. Stouffville	905-642-7323
Woodbridge Library	Ms. Alicia Gabbidon	Islington/Hwy 7 150 Woodbridge Ave. Woodbridge	905-653-7323

Upcoming changes to the Special Diet Allowance:

Here are the key changes being made to the Special Diet Allowance in April 2011:

- The list of eligible medical conditions is changing. This may mean that some people will stop getting an allowance.
- If you have an eligible medical condition, you need to submit a new application form to be considered for the revised Special Diet Allowance.
- If you do not submit a new application form for an eligible medical condition, you will stop receiving the Special Diet Allowance by July 31, 2011.

What the changes mean for you:

To be considered for a Special Diet Allowance after April 2011, you will need to submit a new application form even if you are approved for a Special Diet Allowance now. You will also need to sign a consent to allow the release of medical information related to your application. You should contact your health professional soon to make an appointment for March.

In February 2011, we will mail you the new application form, including the new eligible medical conditions and instructions for applying.

More information:

If you would like to talk to someone about the Special Diet Allowance, call your local office or the ServiceOntario INFOLINE toll-free at 1-888-789-4199 or TTY 1-800-387-5559. You can also find more information on the Ministry's website at www.ontario.ca/community.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Life Success Strategies Workshops

Are you an Ontario Works recipient?
Exploring career options?
Looking for life success skills?
We can help!

The free four-week "Life Success Strategies" Life Skills and Career Options Program offers individual coaching and group workshops, including:

- Skills assessment
- Success strategies for the workplace
- Personal and professional communication skills
- Motivation and self-esteem
- Motivational speakers
- Self-marketing techniques
- Goal setting and action planning
- Housing search
- Transportation tips

To register for the program, contact Pam Mitchell at 1-888-256-1112 ext. 2265

Newmarket - January 31 to February 28
Keswick - March 7 to April 1
Richmond Hill - April 4 to May 3
Vaughan - May 16 to June 13

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

FREE SUMMER CAMP!

For children of York Region residents participating in Ontario Works (OW)

WHO: Children 6 to 13 years old

WHEN: July until first week of September

HOW: For more information call your Social Assistance Case Coordinator for a referral for your child(ren)

Helps Your Child: Increase physical and emotional health
Develop positive social skills
Improve self-esteem
Learn new skills
Have fun!

Helps You: Sustain employment (before and after care available if needed)
Give your child a fun learning experience

Each registered child will receive a FREE camp pack that includes:

- a lunch bag • a knapsack • a sun hat
- a water bottle • sunscreen

Camp packs will be available for pick-up in June at your OW office

Ontario Works CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Help Us Serve You Better!

We are committed to providing quality services that respond to the needs of the community in York Region. We would like your input on how we can improve our services and the way we deliver them to you.

Please take this opportunity to have your say. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete and your responses will remain confidential. Your feedback will help us determine what improvements we can make to meet the needs of our clients.

A number of surveys will be mailed out to random participants. Customer Satisfaction Surveys will also be available in your local office during the month of February or you can access the survey online at <http://york.OWSurvey.sgizmo.com>

PLAY

FREE RECREATION AND SPORTS PROGRAMS

PLAY gives eligible children and youth

★ AGES 4 TO 18 ★

the chance to take part in recreation programs.

Children can choose from: swimming, dance, sports, arts & crafts, martial arts, and many more programs listed in your local recreation guide.

Young people aged 13 to 18 can also choose from gym memberships and drop-in activities.

Programs run **fall, winter and spring** at your local recreation centre. Instruction is provided by trained and qualified recreation staff.

One-to-one support funding is available for children with special needs.

Call the KIDSLINE at

1-888-703-KIDS (5437)

and press Option 6 to see if you qualify

You may be eligible if you are receiving Ontario Works or Child Care Fee Assistance or if you are a Rent-Geared-to-Income tenant.

Do you want to quit smoking?

You may be eligible to participate in a treatment study using Nicotine Replacement Therapy (nicotine patch, gum, inhaler or lozenge) to help you quit smoking.

Medication Free of Charge - Confidential

Friday, February 4, 2011

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Markham

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Richmond Hill

Call 905-830-4444 ext. 3052

York Region Community and Health Services Department