

## Strike D.I.Y.: Some summer camps still have spaces

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*Readers write in with their tips for coping with the civic workers' strike and the Star checks them out.*

*Tip: It is so frustrating to have to find a new daycare or summer camp for your kids. There are, however, tons of programs that are not run by the city to choose from. Many are also less expensive than the city programs. Parents should remember that almost all private schools run summer camp programs. As well, hundreds of private Toronto camps are still running and have space available.*

Is it a good idea?

The Ontario Camps Association lists accredited day camps on its website. Some may offer discounts to parents who can prove they registered for a City of Toronto program and did not receive a refund. Executive director Aruna Ogale said a few camps still had room as of last week. One was at Harbourfront Centre. The other was Camp Robin Hood, a day camp in Markham. Go to [ontariocamps.ca](http://ontariocamps.ca).

*Tip: One way to get rid of food products is to put them out for the raccoons, skunks, etc. Better in their bellies than stinking up the city. ... The wildlife would pig out on the buffet and no longer be interested in your green bin or garbage.*

Is it a good idea?

Don't feed the animals. If you do, raccoons will either move in under your porch or in your attic, says Terry Thorsell, owner of the local Critter Control franchise. "Animals are lazy by nature. If you feed them, they'll stay." And roundworm eggs in raccoon feces can cause serious harm if ingested by a child.

*Patty Winsa*