

Town joins other communities to fight Canada Post

by Julia Le
Oakville Beaver Staff

Oakville Town council has joined numerous city and town councils from across Canada in fighting Canada Post's plan to cancel door-to-door delivery.

On Monday, councillors unanimously voted to ask the federal government to step in and direct its Crown corporation to maintain the current system of residential door-to-door postal delivery in Canada.

Already, about 50 other municipalities have taken similar stances opposing Canada Post's plans to stop door-to-door delivery.

Town officials will press the point for a similar motion to come out of the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual conference in Niagara Falls this weekend (May 30-June 2), according to Ward 6 Councillor Tom Adams who put the motion forward Monday.

It was in February that Canada Post announced plans to stop door-to-door mail delivery to 26,400 Oakville residents this fall.

The news upset many residents in the community.

“This isn't the way we do things in the Town of Oakville. We discuss changes with our residents. I believe Canada Post has let us down in that regard... we need to send a message to Canada Post, and also to the federal government, that Canada Post needs to talk to the stakeholders, the owners of Canada Post, which are the residents in this country.”

Alan Johnston
Ward 1 councillor

Oakville first among five million

Oakville was among 11 communities Canada Post indicated would be the first to be converted to community mailboxes (CMBs) as part of a five-year, Canada-wide initiative to save Canada Post up to \$500 million per year.

The switch to CMBs would be the first stage of a five-year national initiative involving roughly five million addresses.

Residents unhappy with plan

Residents packed a special council meeting held in April to voice concerns about the impact CMBs

would have on them.

They listed physical disability, security, litter and snow removal, as well as access, parking and vandalism, among their concerns.

Despite hearing from Canada Post officials themselves about the details of its decision, Ward 1 Town Councillor Ralph Robinson said local residents are receiving mixed messages, especially when it comes to where the mailboxes will be placed.

Canada Post picks CMB sites

“The jurisdiction on the final location of the post office boxes remains with Canada Post. It's not

something we can direct,” said Oakville CAO Ray Green when questioned by Ward 4 Regional and Town Councillor Allan Elgar.

Through the development of preliminary siting drawings, the Town has indicated to the Crown corporation information about utilities and similar constraints. That said, Green reiterated it's Canada Post's call on where CMBs are placed.

Canada Post criticized

Ward 1 Regional and Town Councillor Alan Johnston charged Canada Post has been “less than forthcoming” with information.

“What I'd like to see them do is have an actual discussion with the residents about the approach taken so far,” he said.

“This isn't the way we do things in the Town of Oakville. We discuss changes with our residents. I believe Canada Post has let us down in that regard... We need to send a message to Canada Post and also to the federal government that Canada Post needs to talk to the stakeholders, the owners of Canada Post, which are the residents in

this country.”

Residents can call Canada Post customer service at 1-866-607-6301 should they have concerns or questions regarding the new CMBs.

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United Way Oakville invites you to attend its 2014 Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 16: Meeting 6:30pm Reception 6:00pm
Hilton Garden Inn: 774 South Sheridan Way, Oakville ON

The purpose of the meeting is:

- To give a full and complete record of UWO's activities for 2013
- To receive the audited consolidated financial statements of UWO for the year ended March 31, 2014
- To appoint BDO Canada as auditors of UWO for the ensuing year
- To elect directors for the ensuing term
- To receive and approve the minutes of the prior AGM
- To transact other such business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Members who are unable to attend the Meeting, but wish to participate in the voting are requested to complete, date, sign and return a form of proxy, which may be obtained from Samantha Dean at samantha@uwoakville.org.

UWO requests that proxies to be used or acted upon at the Meeting be deposited at its head office by 5:00pm, Monday, June 9, 2014.

RSVP by Monday, June 9 to samantha@uwoakville.org

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A receipt for income tax purposes will be sent to you. For more information on how you can help this growing ministry need contact us today at **905-845-7485**. Charitable Reg. No. 897106845RR0001