

Outlook on Halton Hills

After 131 years

Postmaster tradition ends for Limehouse

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Staff

After a 131 year tradition, Limehouse will lose its postmaster. Canada Post Corporation officials told residents Tuesday evening Shirley Yates is the last postmaster. Mrs. Yates has sold her Limehouse General Store and announced her retirement two weeks ago.

Well over 100 people at the Limehouse Community Centre were told a contract will be offered on a commission basis to the new owner of the store.

The Corporation is also interested in talking to other local businesses about maintaining the postal service in Limehouse. "If a partnership is reached with a local business, things should remain the same," said community relations manager Connie Read.

Regardless, rural route mail would still be delivered to their homes, she said.

Mike and Delia Gaskill-Cadwallader are the new owners of the Limehouse store. They will be meeting with Canada Post officials to try and strike an agreement. An answer from the negotiations is expected in about two weeks.

Mrs. Gaskill-Cadwallader said she didn't know whether or not an agreement would be reached. The deci-

sion will be based on "how much we can compromise ourselves," she said.

There wouldn't be much of a monetary value in continuing the post office, but the store owners would be carrying on the duties as a service to the community, she said. Canada Post is right in that keeping the post office would help business by bringing people into the store, she said.

There is a fear that rejecting the Canada Post contract would serve to alienate the community, she said.

Mrs. Gaskill-Cadwallader lived in Limehouse as a child and has recently returned to the village with her husband Michael.

"People are very concerned about how much we have to give up in order to provide service," she added.

If the new store owners won't accept the offer, other businesses could be offered the contract. Canada Post officials won't reject a proposal from a homeowner to operate from their residence, but want the service to have extended hours most suitable to a retail firm.

Residents repeatedly wanted to know how much the contract would be worth to the "contractual operator." The contract amount can't be divulged, said Anne

Reimann, a rural services officer for Canada Post.

The Corporation has a mandate for self-sufficiency by 1989 and this means offering contracts to local businesses in rural areas, said Ms. Read.

No changes will be made without public meetings, a survey and consultations by mail, she said.

Since 1887 across Canada there have been 70 post offices in rural areas changed over to "contractual operators" whose salary is based on commission.

A post office contract operator would provide the same service to Limehouse such as offering registered mail, selling stamps, special delivery and weighing parcels.

If Limehouse business does not accept the Canada Post offer, residents would have to go to Acton for special services.

Delivery would be handled by group boxes or a kiosk, which is a self-contained unit of super boxes covered over and protected, said Ms. Read.

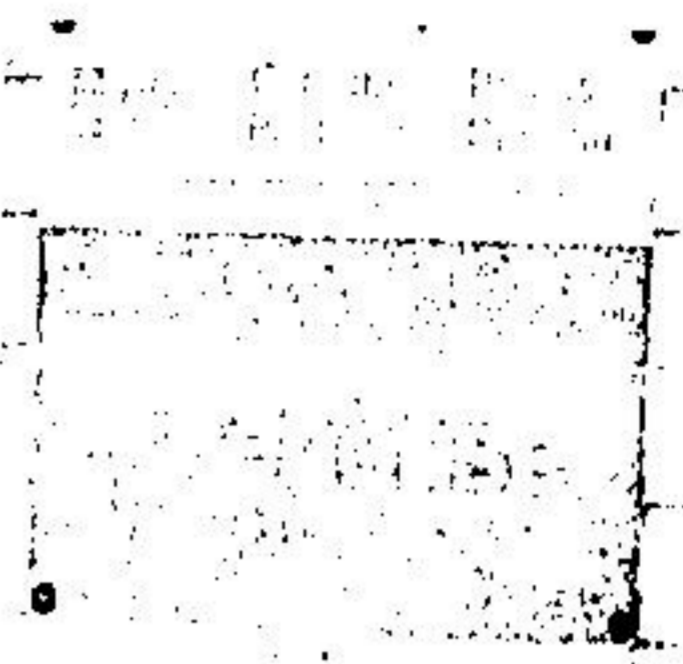
A third alternative for Limehouse would be to have a stamp depot mail facility, she said. Only some services would be handled such as posting letters, and the selling of stamps.

ships with local retailers rather than hiring a new postmaster.

Some residents at the meeting criticized the change. "You're trying to do the same job in a cheaper manner," said one man. "Why fix it if it's not broken," added another.

One lady pleaded for a continuity in the service: "What could this meeting do to get the new owner to accept and to keep the community together?" she said.

Ms. Reimann told the crowd if the community supports the business, the contract operator will do alright.



Shirley Yates

The present postmistress, Shirley Yates, will be closing her store May 2. When a rural postmaster retires, Canada Post now offers partner-

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Teachers travel to Swaziland

Two Halton Family Studies teachers will travel to Swaziland to visit schools and institutions as guests of the Swaziland Home Economics Association.

Joanne Mackie, President, Ontario Family Studies-Home Economics Educators' Association, is on a deferred leave from Sam Sherratt Public School in Milton. Joanne Harris teaches Family Studies at Brookville Public School.

Swaziland Home Economics Association, organized in 1964, is twinned with Ontario Family Studies-Home Economics Educators' Association, founded in 1963.

Both the Swaziland and Ontario Ministries of Education have introduced a new curriculum guideline recently. The two teachers' organizations are offering implementation strategies to their

members. The Joannes will view Swaziland implementation methods during their visit, and discuss a possible project to be accomplished through their partnership.

This study tour is following the visit in November '87 to Ontario schools by two Swaziland Home Economics.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funds this project through their professional association partnership program.

Preacher named for faith festival

St. George's Anglican Church, Georgetown will be host to a mission event entitled "Festivals of Faith" March 20 and 21 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Rev. Morar Murray Hayes is gifted in giving leadership at this event. An experienced lecturer, retreat leader, missionary, supervisor and pastor; she is also an author writing on such varied issues as Doing Theology in a Divided World, The Total Care of the Dying Child, and the Perils of Professionalism.

She received her M.A. in Religious Studies from McGill University and her Diploma in Ministry from the Montreal Institute for Ministry. She served as Pastoral Associate minister at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto and minister at St. Matthew's United Church in Richmond Hill before taking a three-year appointment as teaching pastor at the Vancouver School of Theology.

Deer hit

A deer, which bounded across the Ninth Line, caused an accident March 2 at 11:40 p.m. A 1988 grey Pontiac, driven by a 24-year-old Georgetown man, was northbound on the Ninth Line when it struck a deer that ran into its path. The Pontiac then hit the ditch and rolled over receiving severe damage.

In 1983 she returned east to accept the position of Assistant Professor in the Practice of Ministry at Queen's Theological College in Kingston. Last year she took up her present position as minister of Maple Grove

United Church in Oakville. Her husband, an active Anglican in the Diocese of Toronto is Associate Professor of Church History at Wycliffe College in Toronto. They have one daughter, who is two years old.

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