

# Terra Cotta Postman just might go fishing

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

For the first time in 29 years, Morris Puckering of Terra Cotta will spend his summer fishing instead of delivering the mail.

When Mr. Puckering learned Canada Post had relieved him of his duties from delivering mail to over 285 homes in Terra Cotta, he decided it was time to take his fishing rod down from the shelf and take a summer vacation, the first he's had since he started delivering the mail in 1963.

While he's making plans to go fishing, many residents in Terra Cotta are still objecting to the fact he's gone, hook, line and sinker.

So far, over 300 residents have signed a petition protesting Canada Post's decision to replace Mr. Puckering with a postman who submitted a lower tender for the mail route and was awarded the contract. Many more have been writing local and Toronto papers expressing their anger that a man with 29 years of loyal service was rejected for a cheaper mailman.

"Mr. Puckering is a man who has been loyal for 29 years, who would do all the extras without flinching or asking for overtime," wrote Terra Cotta resident Penny Richardson to the Toronto Star. "Our postie is not a tough businessman, not a man proteted by the union, not a man to put up a fight against the likes

of a corporation like Canada Post."

But, she like many others have taken up the fight for him.

Peter Glavicik, Heather Warn, Joan Hunter and Mary-Lou Raymond, collected names for the petition and presented it to Halton-Peel M.P. Garth Turner last week, hoping for change.

Mr. Turner said he has sent the letter to Ottawa and requested a response from Canada Post.

"I want to make Canada Post aware that people in the community want the system reviewed," he said. "The current system isn't fair because Canada Post has no process for people to appeal their decisions."

Canada Post has already decided. It awarded the mail route contract, a five-year deal, to Karen Smith of Brampton.

July 31 was Mr. Puckering's last day on the job.

Deborah Harron, a media-relations officer with Canada Post's regional head office in Toronto said awarding mail route contracts is a "business decision."

"Community opinion does not necessarily affect Canada Post's decision," she said. "Financial and service matters are taken into consideration for the final analysis."

She would not elaborate on the particulars of Mr. Puckering's situation because it's private information but admitted she knew

all about the public outcry against Mr. Puckering's dismissal through Mr. Turner's inquiry into the matter.

"This is the first time that I know of, that there's been such a public response (to a mailroute contract)," she said.

No one has been more surprised about the support for Mr. Puckering than the man himself.

"I was really amazed by all this," he admitted. "But I really appreciate the support."

He said he's facing the situation realistically.

"I expected other people to tender for the route because there are a lot of people looking for work," he said. "I don't think my tender was really high and when they asked me if I wanted to re-tender for the route, I said I couldn't because I was going broke quicker than I'd intended."

"I don't blame other people for trying for the route," he said. "I just don't see how they can make any money if they tendered much lower than me."

All Mary-Lou Raymond knows is that many people will miss Mr. Puckering's service.

"He did small services for different people that were never requirements in his contract," she said. "He would do special things like deliver parcels to seniors so they wouldn't have to go to the store."

She knows how much people respected him because she worked with him at the Terra Cotta General Store and post office for 13 years and never heard a complaint about the man or his service.

Presently, Mr. Puckering is looking for work. He said if the new mail-lady decided to drop the route he would take it back for the rate he tendered.

That could be a real possibility because the same thing happened to two female mail deliverers in Georgetown in May.

Phyllis Stewart, who delivered the R.R. 3 Georgetown mail, and R.R. 2 mail route deliverer Joan Hayes lost their jobs in May when another person under-bid their tenders and was awarded the contract.

Less than a week later, both ladies had their jobs back for the rate they tendered.



Former Terra Cotta mailman Morris Puckering proudly displays this wildlife print, one of the many gifts residents of Terra Cotta gave him as a way to say thank you for the excellent mail delivery service he's provided for the past 28 years. As of July 31, Mr. Puckering was no longer a mailman, since another person under-bid his tender for the mail route contract. Mr. Puckering seems to have accepted his job loss but residents in Terra Cotta have been signing a petition and writing local papers expressing their anger that their local postie has been given the boot. (Herald photo)

## Fire Calls

### Dumpster ignites

Halton Hills firefighters filled a garbage dumpster with water Saturday afternoon to douse flames that were seen flickering from the top. Firefighters say the dumpster, located at Harrison Public School, in Georgetown, was not damaged from the fire. A search of the dumpster contents turned up a small red gas can which firefighters believe may have had a part in how the blaze started. Once the fire was put out, the water was drained from the dumpster.

### False alarm

Firefighters walked down the fitness trail at Cedarvale Park Monday after a caller said he had smelled smoke in the woods along the trail. Firefighters didn't detect any smoke smell or fire.

## Emergency funding

Continued from Page 1

corporate additional base station with an emergency operations centre, \$22,603.96 for medical and public education programs and the instating of a mobile command post which cost \$27,000.

For 1990 in Halton Hills, \$5,556.37 was given to extend a communication system to incorporate one radio voting system. Also last year in Halton Region, \$10,925 was provided for a communication study to link regional and municipal public works departments with an overall communications system.

"This payment represents continuing Government of Canada and provincial commitment to

improving emergency response capability in the province," said Mr. Masse.

The JEPP program enables the federal government to contribute to or undertake jointly with the provinces and territories emergency preparedness projects that enhance the national response capability. Since the inception of the program in 1980, the Government of Canada has contributed \$13.5 million toward joint emergency preparedness projects in Ontario.

For further information, please contact Wayne Brocklehurst, Regional Director (Ontario) Emergency Preparedness Canada at (416)973-6343.

## NORVAL NEWS

### Special birthday

By KAY WILSON

Happy Birthday to Lois Fendley of Norval, who celebrated her 65th birthday.

Her son Randy and his wife Trudy entertained at their home in Bramalea in honor of their mother.

Also assisting were her daughter Marie and her husband John Brown of Limehouse, and granddaughter Gayle and her husband Peter Rzadki of Toronto.

Lynne and Craig Taylor of Norval were there to help with their grandmother's party.

Many relatives and friends called to extend their best wishes.

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