

# Postal strike is hurting Halton Hills businesses

Small businesses in Georgetown and Acton directly dealing with the public will encounter "cash flow problems" because of the postal strike, said Doug Penrice, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce General Manager, during an interview Monday.

"People will use the strike as an excuse not to pay their bills promptly," said Mr. Penrice.

Facsimile machines and courier services will alleviate some of the problem but it must be realized courier services cost 10 times more than using the post office. "It adds a lot to the bottom line," he added.

Darrell Moore, President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) local 542 representing Georgetown and Acton, said Monday the 45 carriers and inside workers in Halton Hills are "ready to hit the picket lines whenever they get the word. We're on strike alert," he said.

To date, the union is carrying out a rotating strike.

As of Monday, stamps could be purchased at the Georgetown and Acton post offices, but neither

outgoing nor incoming mail was being processed or delivered, said Mr. Moore.

"People who think we should be fired for going out on strike," said Mr. Moore, "should remember they would be doing the same thing if they hadn't received a raise during the last two years."

The union has been without a new contract for the last 24 months.

Mr. Penrice said a company such as Dominion Seed House - a seed mail order business - will really feel the effects of the strike, because the company relies heavily on mail service, he said.

A spokesperson for Dominion Seed House said the company has just started taking fall bulb orders, so if the strike continues, the orders won't get through. As well, if the strike continues, then shipping of the bulb orders will also be delayed, said the spokesperson. "We use courier services, but you can't use couriers right across the country, it gets expensive."

John Duncan, president of D.D.H. Distribution Services in Georgetown - a mail ordering company - said Monday the rotating strikes over the weekend have already hurt his business.

"Our publisher returns are down," said Mr. Duncan. Publisher returns are mail order books purchasers have sent back to the publishers.

Despite the initial impact, Mr. Duncan expects the strike won't significantly hurt his business. His prediction is based on management for Canada Post being able to process and deliver the mail while the strike continues.

"I've been on the phone with Canada Post several times today (Monday) and they confirm they have a handle on the situation," he said.

Mr. Duncan admits, however, the strike will have a severe impact on his company if Canada Post management can't process the mail.

A Canada Post spokesperson said management has been deployed to the strike areas to ensure the mail is processed.



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### Tot Lot program

Sarah Packer, Junior Leader with the Halton Parks and Recreation Department, assists youngsters Katherine Vandermey (left) and John Dalrymple in gaining some height on the swings at

Cedarvale Park. These Georgetown youths are part of the Tot Lot program run by the Recreation and Parks Department this summer. (Herald photo)

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