

Seniors forced to suffer because of mail wrangle

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Herald

Confusion, anger, and utter frustration were high on the list of feelings associated with many Georgetown senior citizens, due to the postal strike and their inability to receive mail. Particularly since many cheques were much-needed.

Georgetown postal workers began legal strike action and because of this, a special depot centre at the former Western Carpet location at 184 Guelph Street, was established so that Georgetown residents could pick up their mail.

While it was expected the first shipment of mail would arrive last Thursday, it didn't arrive until early Friday.

"What are they (CUPW) trying to prove?" asked John Window, a disabled senior from Georgetown. "It's ridiculous that I have to come down here and pick up my mail and now it's not even here."

Mr. Window, who requires the use of oxygen equipment at all times, went to the depot centre to pick up Canada Pension cheques for himself and his wife. When he arrived Thursday afternoon, he was unable to pick up these cheques because the mail had not arrived.

"These picketers are asking for a kick in the ass," voiced Mr. Window.

One postal worker, who preferred to remain anonymous, told Mr. Window that when the mail arrived, it would be delivered to all disabled people in the area. He took down Mr. Window's name and address.

"I think it's awful these disabled people have to come here and pick up their mail," said Georgetown resident Felix Desmet, who also came to pick up his pension cheque.

During the confusion, while many local residents wondered when they would ever receive their mail, one picket captain explained Georgetown postal workers would not attempt to stop people when the mail did arrive.

During the first shipment of mail, which arrived early Friday, local residents were again overcome with frustration. Due to the small load delivered, the majority of individuals who came to pick up their mail went home empty-handed.

One Georgetown senior who did receive his Canada Pension cheque, Mr. Neil Frawley, said a friend of his who needed to get her cheque didn't receive it and that he didn't need to receive his as badly as many other seniors might. He expressed concern for those who didn't receive their



John Window, a disabled senior citizen from Georgetown, was one of the many local residents unable to pick up mail at the temporary depot centre at 184 Guelph Street in Georgetown last Thursday. Mr. Window, who requires the use of oxygen equipment at all times, was confused and frustrated when he was unable to pick up his Canada Pension cheque. "This situation is ridiculous," voiced Mr. Window. (Herald photo)

cheques. Evelyn Brown, a cancer patient from Georgetown, voiced her strong concerns over not receiving her mail.

"This is ridiculous. This is such a small community and we can't even get our mail. Why is it that people in Barrie and other places can pick up their mail and I can't?" asked Ms. Brown, who was yet another Georgetown senior waiting on her Canada

Pension cheque. While confusion ran high whether people would receive their mail or not, it is clear the postal strike in Georgetown and nationally has inconvenienced many people, to say the least.

It's a shame people had to suffer because of the strike.

But then, what dispute between two groups hasn't resulted in innocent people being hurt in some way?

Severance bid is denied

Local car dealership owner Barry Whitworth has been unsuccessful in his bid to sever a piece of property on Sideroad 5 east of Ninth Line in Halton Hills, the Herald has learned.

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has ruled the severance application doesn't comply with the province's Ministry of Food and Agriculture Foodland guidelines, according to a written OMB decision.

The decision indicates Mr. Whitworth was to give the severed piece of property to his daughter once she was married. A house was to be built on the land.

In the written decision, board Vice-chairman D.S. Colbourne rejects the position put forth by Mr. Whitworth's planner Clare Reipma. Mr. Reipma claims since the property is located in an area that is "agricultural interspersed with single family non-farm dwellings, another family dwelling would be no pro-

blem." According to the decision, Mr. Reipma also put forth the argument that the proposed property to be severed could not be classified as farmland. He based his reasoning on the fact that the property is not cleared of stone.

Mr. Reipma concludes of all the possible portions of the Whitworth property that could be severed for a single family home that section being proposed is the best because development of this

land would have the least impact on area agriculture.

Despite Mr. Reipma's position, the OMB ruled the proposal doesn't conform with the province's foodland guidelines. According to the guidelines, severances can only be granted in the rural areas if the property is to be used as a retirement lot for a bona-fide farmer or to house farm help.

According to the decision, the board doesn't consider Mr. Whitworth a full-time farmer.

Volunteers required

The Halton Children's Aid Society requires volunteers to participate in planning activities and supervising pre-school children in a creative play program. This group is the Children's Group Component of the Mother's Group Program, offered every Thursday in Georgetown from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The program runs the school year - September to June. Your own children are welcome. Training is provided and expenses paid.

Call Susan Stuart, Co-ordinator of Support Services at 844-8211 or 878-2375.

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