



CUPW President Pete Fendley - Frances Learment photo

Town and CUPW protest loss of home mail delivery

Local politicians and union members want the Federal government to "direct" Canada Post to abandon its plan to phase out door-to-door mail delivery within the next five years.

With support of Local 543 (Acton and Georgetown) of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), Council unanimously passed a resolution last Monday asking the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

to lend its weight to get Ottawa to make Canada Post maintain the current system of door-to-door delivery.

In a recorded vote requested by the CUPW executive, Council supported a motion from Mayor Rick Bonnette who said the end of home delivery calls the very stability of Canada's postal system into question.

Bonnette said he, like a lot of Canadians, was "quite angry" when he

learned of Canada Post's plans, which he said would mean additional costs, responsibilities, liabilities, and requirements for paving, lighting and policing vandalism for the Town.

"I can just see the fights that we're going to have if we have to police who is going to get a mailbox in front of their house..." Bonnette said, adding no one will want it, but the Town would have to "sort it out."

Bonnette said he is "disheartened" by the potential loss of door-to-door delivery, misquoting the US postal creed of "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." He also said they have to consider the economics of lost jobs.

Pete Fendley, President Local 542, said a switch to group mail boxes would cost workers jobs, and make it difficult for seniors and the disabled to get their mail.

Pointing to an unprecedented 35 per cent jump in the price of a first class stamp - to 85-cents - and the announced phase-out of home delivery, Fendley said they believe that Canada Post is "setting ourselves up for failure."

"What happened to Canada Post and its service to Canadians, (and) Georgetown people...we all wonder what's going on," Fendley said.

Regional/Ward One Councillor Clark Somerville complained there had been no meaningful consultation with municipalities or Canadians, and noted that following Canada Post's review of rural mailbox safety, the first place it looked at to locate new group boxes

was municipal right-of ways, parks and cemeteries.

Somerville said the Town doesn't want to get dragged into a fight about locating the group mail boxes, noting they are planned and designed in new subdivisions, but finding a suitable, acceptable location will be tougher in mature areas of Halton Hills.

He said FCM wants "meaningful consultations, there's respect for municipal bylaws and zoning, there's no downloading for costs on municipalities and there's municipal autonomy" to find locations.

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary, who worked in the greeting card industry, said all retail will be impacted by changes to mail delivery, but especially card sales which are the second most profitable area in drug stores.

Fendley urges people with complaints/ concerns about the end of door-to-door delivery to call the Canada Post hotline at 1-888-267-1177, or the local Post Office at 905-877-5143 ext 2000, or www.canadapost.ca He also said people should write Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong with their concerns. Only one-third of Canadians still have door-to-door mail delivery.

After council's unanimous vote to maintain door-to-door delivery, which will be forwarded to other Canadian municipalities, Mayor Bonnette said he hoped they would have "the same passion that we just showed and get more involved..." he said, noting that this fall, Oakville will be one of the first Canadian communities to switch to group mail boxes.

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MILL STREET WEST FROM DUBLIN LINE TO BIRCHWAY PLACE (ACTON), HALTON HILLS

THE PROJECT

The Town of Halton Hills has retained EcoTec Environmental Consultants Inc. and Crozier & Associates Consulting Engineers in order to complete a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the reconstruction of a portion of Mill Street West in (see Key Map).

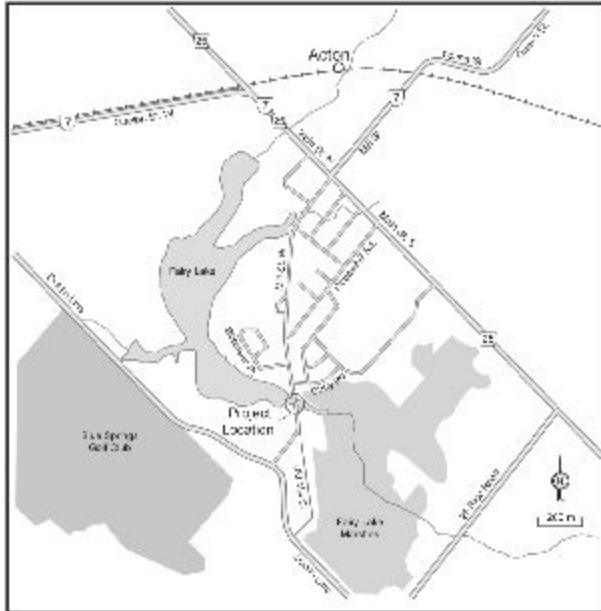
The proposed project will include:

- Reconstruction of Mill Street West from Dublin Line to Birchway Place; and
- Replacement of the existing culvert that connects Fairy Lake and the upstream wetland.

THE PROCESS

This Municipal Class EA planning process will be carried out according to the approved terms of reference and the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The study will include an assessment of potential impacts of the work on the study area environment. A Public Information Centre (PIC) is scheduled for spring 2014 in order to present the detail design of the project, obtain comments, and discuss any concerns with regards to the proposed undertakings.

Upon completion of this study, an Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be prepared and made available for public review. Notification of Completion will be published in the local newspaper.



Key Map

COMMENTS

We are interested in hearing any comments or concerns that you may have regarding the Mill Street West study. Please contact either Doug Clark or Todd Cronkright at the following addresses/numbers:

Mr. Doug Clark
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E-mail: dclark@ecotecenvironmental.com

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Halton Hills, Ontario
L7G 5G2
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Fax: (905) 873-3036
Email: toddc@haltonhills.ca

Comments and information regarding this study are being collected to assist in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. These comments will be maintained on file for use during the study in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments become part of the public record with the exception of personal information.

ICE STORM CLEANUP

Clean up and removal of
broken branches, brush
and yard debris

Call Mitchell after 5 p.m.

289-839-0624