

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Ergonomic assistant gets Rockwood mail moving

Neither snow, sleet nor blinding rain can stop the mail, but in rural Rockwood recently, the absence of an "ergonomic assistant" tied up the mail to some 200 mail boxes after a new rural carrier reportedly raised health and safety issues and stopped delivering mail on the route, east of Rockwood.

An ergonomic assistant, according to Canada Post spokesman Eugene Knapik, is someone who rides with a rural carrier so they don't have to sit in the centre of their vehicle to reach across to deliver the mail through the passenger side window.

When the mail carrier who had been on the route for approximately two weeks quit, Knapik said Canada Post had "staffing issues that unfortunately took a few days" to

resolve before mail delivery could resume on October 11. "We currently have a rural carrier with an ergonomic assistant in place," he said on Monday, adding in some cases, on some routes, Canada Post provides an assistant for the regular driver. He had no information about the rural carrier or the ergonomic assistant.

On Tuesday, Knapik issued this statement: "Canada Post regrets the service impact and we're pleased things have returned to normal. This was the result of a personal situation with one employee which has been resolved."

Seventh Line resident Peter Vander Heyden said his family didn't get any mail for approximately one week, and was not impressed that they couldn't get a "straight

answer" from Canada Post about when they would get mail. "They didn't give us any notice – they should have put a note in the mail to tell us what was happening," Vander Heyden said on Sunday. Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong echoed that criticism on Monday. "They (Canada Post) never communicated that mail service was interrupted. People should have been notified immediately that there was a problem and they weren't, and it wasn't until residents contacted us and we in turn contacted Canada Post, that people were contacted and told what was going on," Chong said, adding he's waiting for the results of a Canada Post investigation, but has been promised "it won't happen again."



READY & ABLE: Members of the Guelph/Eramosa Fire Department, including from left: Jeff Simm, T.J. Drake, Ron Crosbie and Jeff Aitken, were on hand for an open house and barbecue on Saturday at the Rockwood fire hall. – Ted Tyler photo

Township Digest

Public input sought

The public is invited to comment on Wellington County's plans for a County-wide active transportation master plan, which will create and improve transportation options including walking, running, cycling and hiking. At the same time that a transportation master plan is being developed, the Township of Centre Wellington is doing a study to develop a Township-wide trails master plan.

The studies will inventory existing active transportation and trail facilities, recommend a network of routes and appropriate facilities, develop planning policy and identify priorities for implementing the master plan over the next 20

years. The master plan will look at funding, promotion and partnership opportunities.

A public information centre on the master plan is slated for Saturday, October 22 at the Erin Community Centre from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. A draft of the vision and goals of the master plan, examples of active transportation and trail facilities and maps showing active and candidate transportation and trail routes will be available.

Anyone unable to attend the open house is invited to complete an on-line questionnaire at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/WellingtonQuestionnaires>

Seat Safety

Booster seat safety will be stressed at Rockwood

Centennial School on October 25 as the OPP, the OPP Auxiliary Unit, Co-operators Insurance and East Wellington Community Services stage a "Boost Me Up" seatbelt education campaign.

The safety campaign will focus on booster seats which are mandatory for kids until they are eight years old, weigh 80-pounds or are at least 4'9" tall – police said kids aged four to 10 are at risk because parents and caregivers often take them out of their booster seat too early.

While at Centennial on Tuesday, "Boost Me Up" officials will answer questions, provide tips and do courtesy booster seat spot checks outside the school from 3 to 4 p.m.

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