

Town will continue to ask Canada Post to apply for permits for community superboxes

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In Halton Hills, Canada Post contractors are required to apply for permits and provide letters of credit in accordance with the Town's existing bylaw when installing the superboxes.

Fees for entrance and excavation permits can total \$554 per community mailbox, depending on the site. In addition, a letter of credit security is requested for \$77,500.

"The Town has an existing fee bylaw which all contractors, including those working for Canada Post, are required to follow," said Bonnette. "The

fees reflect staff time and effort to ensure the installations meet our standards'.

He said the technical complexities for the installations involve utility conflicts, entrance permit requirements for curb cuts and concrete pad/pathway installations. Some regional sewers and water mains, including the Town storm sewer laterals are in direct conflict with some of the proposed locations.

"This request is consistent with what we ask for from anyone; we're not asking for anything different. The safe and proper installation of these mailboxes is

my main concern," said Bonnette.

"After much discussion, with our staff, Canada Post has agreed and applied to the Town for entrance permits to allow work within the boulevard in order to prepare it for safe public access to the new mailboxes only within Georgetown," said Bonnette. "We have reviewed the various locations chosen by CP, provided technical feedback and agreed to a fee structure for our costs. Staff have written assurances that Canada Post will pay our fees, have sufficient insurance coverage by their contractors and as such, we are prepared to

allow for the work to proceed."

Town Engineer John Kwast said the Town has had little influence in Canada Post's decision making.

"Each location will be reviewed for conforming to public safety and rectified as needed," said Kwast.

He added Canada Post has indicated that contractors are available to restore their box installations if contacted.

"In addition, they advise that they will maintain proper and safe public access throughout the year once in operation," said Kwast.

"If an emergency situation arises, the Town will take charge to ensure that the public is protected as we would do on any Town road allowances," said Kwast.

If the court decision stands, it will also kill a series of provincial offences charges laid against the Crown corporation and its subcontractors.

Spokesperson Jon Hamilton said in a statement Canada Post is pleased the courts upheld its "long-standing authority" to install mailboxes in municipal rights-of-way

With files from Hamilton Spectator

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