

## Reader's comments

# City folks should pay for mail delivery

Dear Editor:

Canadians are served by about 6,000 post offices. Those in cities deliver to the door by letter carrier service. Most of the 5,200 smaller offices have no delivery to your door. You go to the post office for

your mail or to your rural mail box.

In growing cities with developing areas "Super Boxes" are proposed. We outside the urban areas see this as quite acceptable. We have walked or driven to the post office or box for

our mail all our lives.

We believe most people in Canada's towns, villages and rural areas do not want super boxes. We want to continue to receive the excellent service the post masters and staffs of the 5,200 post offices are

providing.

In the interest of fairness we suggest all Canadians now receiving letter carrier service be given the option of having it continued by paying a fee or, say \$20 to \$52 a year for the service, or going to the post office

or box for their mail like the rest of us. Those receiving rural mail delivery all walk or drive to their box for the mail. Some go two, three or more city blocks to get it. Fair is fair. Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms should we, outside the

cities, demand delivery to our door? No! We are not asking for this. Rural people have been "going to the mail" for 100 years. Most are willing to continue.

But we think those who are getting it delivered to the building in which they live should and would be willing to pay something

extra for the extra service they receive.

We believe our view is shared by many millions of Canadians living in the vast area of Canada not getting letter carrier service.

**Paul M. Moore,**  
**David Houghland and**  
**James Butler**  
Norwich, Ont.



## Post office a symbol

Dear Editor:

Rural Dignity is a grassroots movement whose spirit and values are expressed, we hope, in our name.

Our founding day was December 14, 1986 when over 600 people representing British Columbia to Newfoundland gathered in the parish church of Esprit Saint, a village in Eastern Quebec. Since then, we've shared in an adventure of our own making. Rural Dignity has taken shape little by little, meeting by meeting, in schools, coffee shops, at town councils and in community halls.

We organized around the issue of rural post office closure and privatization. This remains the present focus of our work. The post office is vital to a village's well-being. It has also become an important symbol for us. Having lost our schools, town councils, and train stations, we feel the post office is the last institution which at once

maintains our individual identity and links us with the rest of the country.

We work by volunteer committees and have no official memberships. We are farmers and fishermen, teachers, and community development workers, business people and municipal officials, clergy and seniors. We are of all ages and political persuasions. What we share is a vision for rural Canada.

We believe villages have the potential to offer, as they have done historically, a rich, integrated way of life. We know we must not allow the de-population of our countryside to be dismissed as an "historical inevitability." We know very specific economic policies and a relentless push to centralism are threatening to kill us. We work for not only the survival, but the flourishing of rural Canada. We envisage not a naive return to the past, but a new, creative alliance with urban Canada, an alliance based on the sharing of knowledge and respect.

**Gilles Raymond,**  
President,  
Rural Dignity of Canada

## Home delivery

Door to door mail service may become a thing of the past. But does it really matter? Some communities are fighting just to keep their post office.

## Keeping on the lookout

Dear Editor:

Attention all former Where is tax money best spent?

Dear Editor:

If Midland Reeve, Bev Day is so opposed to the town donating a modest sum of money toward helping retired citizens of Midland establish a lifeskills centre, on the pretense of protecting the public purse, how come he supported a Simcoe County Council expenditure of \$6,500 to bankroll the County Warden's banquet and dance recently held at the posh Highland Inn. At the Nov. Midland council meeting, Day praised his Midland colleague on County Council, Deputy-Reeve Nancy Keefe, for doing what he described as a "super" job in helping to arrange the "super" Warden's Highland social affair.

The Reeve was somewhat selective, however, in what he told those present at the council session and television audience regarding the "super" festive event. For example, he neglected to tell them about the "super" \$6,500 expenditure of taxpayers' money involved in staging the gala function.

William J. Ogilvie

Belleville Sea Cadets, Officers and Navy League members:

The R.C.S.C.C. Quinte is looking for all former sea cadets to help them celebrate their 60th anniversary as a corp.

This reunion will be taking place at the ship in May

1988.

If you have not been contacted by the Navy League Committee and are interested in attending this reunion please contact: Sally Mott, Reunion Committee, 28 Lexington Crescent, Belleville, Ontario, K8P 4L1.

We would be pleased to

hear from you and if you know of any addresses of ex-cadets or officers please forward the information to the above and help make this reunion a huge success.

**Sally Mott**  
Reunion Committee  
Navy League of Canada  
Quinte Branch

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