

Letters

Post office is part of town's infrastructure: Reader

Dear Editor,
An open letter to MP Bill Attewell:

I have signed the petition being circulated by the Save the Post Office Committee and would like to register my comments with you.

I am a descendant of the Stouffer family, and a 40-year resident of the town. I am now retired and living about four blocks from the downtown core of Stouffville. From time to time I visit the existing post office to buy stamps or mail a letter. On most occasions I am the only customer, and rarely there will be one other customer in the office at the same time.

I don't know what the staffing of the post office is, perhaps three or four people, of whom only two are visible behind the counter, and usually only one of those is ready to serve customers. Now you tell us that in future they will not serve the public at all. What are these

people supposed to do for the seven or eight hours that they are on duty each day? What happened to "a day's pay for a day's work?"

The first time I encountered this situation was about a year ago when I went to the O'Connor Drive post office in Scarborough to buy a stamp. I found myself the only customer in that very large office, yet the clerk on duty refused to sell me a stamp, because I was not a "commercial customer." What do you suppose they thought I was? Are these people content to twiddle their thumbs all day and collect their pay?

I don't believe there is enough "commercial business" in this town to warrant the measure, and if there is, why not open a dedicated office in the commercial and/or industrial part of town to serve it. A small rented office, without any frills or weird sculpture would be adequate for the job. If there is so much commercial business

available, the heavy users probably have to carry it to the post office in a vehicle, and could just as well drive it to a location where there would be more parking. The central post office is part of the infrastructure of

the town, just like the pavement, water, sewage, hydro and telephone services, and as the bus and train services should be. If you cannot improve the postal service (say to the level we enjoyed at the time of the

three cent letter rate of the 1930s) please leave it along, and do not entrust it to the vagaries of businesses who run it as a sideline.

Eldon T. Wiancko
Stouffville



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3. Limited number of entries accepted.
4. Deadline September 21/93.

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