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## Post office not a meeting place, opponents of local closure told

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

If the cancellation of retail service at the downtown Canada Post office takes business from Stouffville's central core, the town has only itself to blame, local officials heard this week.

Canada Post's York Region communications manager, Jim Craig, also told local politicians that his corporation can't be held accountable if people have no where to mingle on their daily errand trek.

"We are not in the meeting place business; we are in the postal service business," Craig told officials during a delegation Tuesday night.

Craig and two associates were asked to meet with officials to discuss Canada Post's widely-criticized decision to stamp out retail service and open the office doors only to commercial customers.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice told Craig the decision is "a swipe at the downtown area."

"This is a death nail for our downtown," Prentice said.

But Craig said the decision was nothing personal but

instead based solely on the economic fact that retail business is minimal at the Main Street office.

"The vast majority of retail postal business is already being done at one of your area stamp shops," Craig said.

He added that more than 50 per cent of all revenue generated at the Main Street office is commercial with customers dealing in thousands of dollars each week.

"The business side of the revenues are well beyond the majority of business derived from this office. We are taking in essentially only business revenues," Craig said.

When officials complained the service change removes "foot traffic" from Main Street, Craig said the blame there lies with council and its planning decisions.

"If all the anchor businesses are located at one end of town that's the responsibility of council through its planning process," he said.

Craig went on to say that having stamp shops located in various local retail outlets "strengthens Whitchurch-

Stouffville businesses."  
"We took a very serious look at this before we made this

move to leave it commercial only — and there is enough commercial business there that

we didn't close it down altogether," Craig said.

(Please see page 3)



## Town orders Church St. owner to alter home

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

The town has ordered a Church Street builder to dismantle a section of his partly-constructed house after increased pressure from neighboring homeowners that the structure violates the Ontario Building Code bylaw. *The Tribune* learned yesterday.

Politicians ordered a new survey be taken after neighbors produced an independent computer document which showed the house violated the town's restrictive 35-per-cent land coverage ratio by nearly one per cent.

In light of the new evidence, the building department hired an Ontario land surveyor

Wednesday to re-measure the house, which was indeed found to be in violation of the building code by 35.5 sq. ft.

Chief administrative officer Merlin Dewing told *The Tribune*, "a small problem does exist" with the structure size, which led to the immediate issuance of a 'order to comply' to builder, Ken Nastor.

Nastor has agreed to take off a portion of the front porch and remove its roof in order to bring the structure back into compliance, Dewing said.

Dewing said the problem stems from a discrepancy in the land purchase agreement, which states the lot width measures 49.5 feet. But according to the survey, it is

only 48.66 feet wide, Dewing said.

"The lot size is different than what our assessment maps say - the legal description is wrong," Dewing said.

Church Street residents Diane Morgan, Dr. Don Morgan and Corky Laing have been pleading with the town to have the house re-measured since construction began nearly one year ago.

Tuesday night the trio pleaded with politicians to have the construction of the 2,855-sq. ft. home halted until the structure is re-measured.

"Someone is not doing their job. Here's somebody who is blatantly breaking the law over and over, who is walking

all over the town and nothing is being done. This is not fair to anybody here. The (town bylaw enforcement) moves are not being made; actions are not being taken," a frustrated Laing told politicians.

But during the Tuesday meeting, building director Bob Bennett said his hands were

tied because he couldn't prove the builder has broken the law.

"There is no proof that (the builder) is doing anything wrong. I have no legal avenue to put a stop work order on this," Bennett said.

But Diane Morgan insisted

(Please see page 3)

### Claremont man identified

Police have identified the body of a man found in a Stouffville field as a Claremont resident.

The body of William Edward McDonald, 57, was discovered Sunday morning by a horseback rider just inside Stouffville's east border near Hwy 47.

McDonald lived alone at Lot 23, Concession 9, Claremont.

An autopsy showed death occurred by natural causes.

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