

No more mail for retiring postal worker

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

After almost three decades of handling everything from bills to birth announcements, Stouffville Post Office employee Chris Tsementzis is calling it a day.

He's retiring after 29 years with Canada Post — 16 of them serving the public in Stouffville.

Those 16 years were almost cut short in 1993, however, when the federal government threatened to close small rural post offices across the country. A group of citizens led by Stephen Sword and others swung into action campaigning to keep the post office open.

Post office closings were put on ice once a new Liberal government was elected, Mr. Tsementzis noted, which meant he could continue driving to his Stouffville job from Scarborough every weekday morning.

He and his staff have handled increasing mail volume every year as more than 1,000 new homes were built in town since 1987. Now the post office delivers mail to about 7,000 customers.

Mr. Tsementzis is known to everyone who's come into the downtown Stouffville post office. Many of his customers will stop to chat as they pick up

their mail or send out a letter. Many of them walk to the post office.

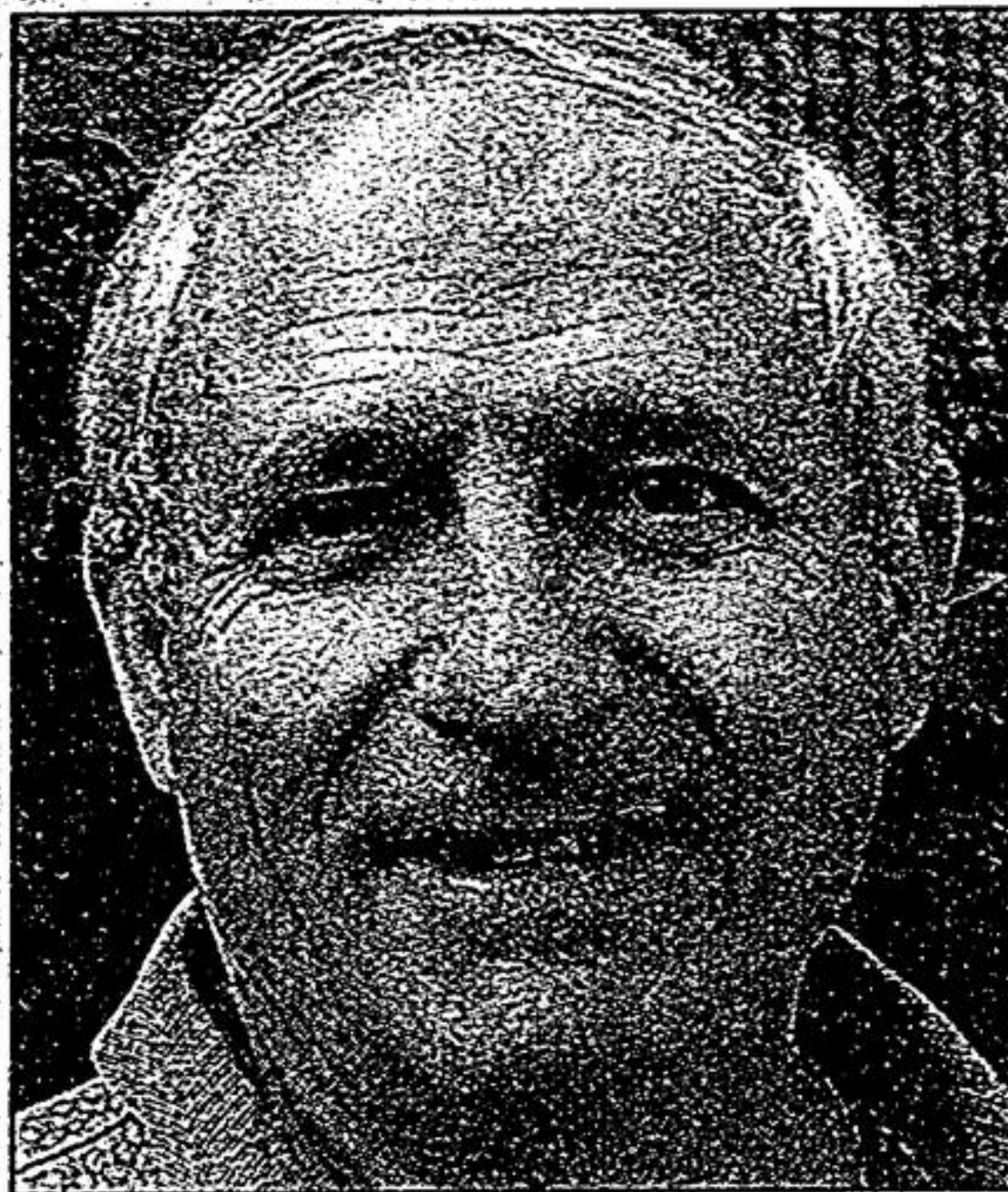
"I want to thank the people of Stouffville for their kindness and the 16 wonderful years they gave me," Mr. Tsementzis said. "I will miss them."

He appreciates how well he and staff members, such as Dave Glover and Eleanor Fryer, worked together at the front desk and the able assistance he received in the mail sorting department from Emma Begg and Ava Maldonado.

"I want to thank the people of Stouffville for their kindness and the 16 wonderful years they gave me. I will miss them."

That co-operation led to the Stouffville Post Office winning several awards for excellent service.

Stouffville was only one of two Greater Toronto Area post offices to receive a perfect score out of 977 outlets surveyed a few years ago. A mystery shopper assessed each post office outlet on its general appearance and on counter employees' ability to serve the public.



CHRIS TSEMENTZIS

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