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Belated wishes: Christmas card spends year in mail

BY CHRIS TRABER
Staff Writer

As a retired parole officer, Marion Ballard knows a thing or two about keeping tabs on people.

Christmas cards, however, have her stumped.

Last Monday, the long-time Markham resident received her mail. Included in the delivery was a Christmas card she posted 12 months prior. Despite the correct postage, recipient and return addresses, the mail went AWOL for a full year and was finally returned with a label suggesting the addressee had moved.

"I'm not complaining, just laughing and wondering where the post office would have stashed it for a year," Ms Ballard said with a giggle. "I figure they knew it was almost Christmas and they better return it."

"I was really surprised. I double checked the address and called the friend who I mailed it to. Obviously, she hadn't moved. We had a good laugh."

The intended recipient of Ms Ballard's seasonal greetings, Marjorie Douglas, lives only a few kilometres south of Markham. Both women got a chuckle out of the card's serendipitous detour, Ms Ballard said.

The situation is rare, Canada Post spokesperson Keisha McIntosh said.

'I'm not complaining, just laughing and wondering where the post office would have stashed it for a year.'

Marion Ballard
sender of Christmas card, a year ago



STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS TRABER

Marion Ballard had a Christmas card she mailed to a friend in Markham returned 12 months later.

Canada Post is committed to providing quality customer service.

The glitch that stole her Christmas card won't deter Ms Ballard from sending her traditional large batch of yule tide messages.

"I send a lot of them every year," she said. "I pick a special card for each person and I personalized it with a note. It takes me two days to write and send my cards. I just love Christmas and I really enjoy sending and getting cards."

Canada Post welcomes questions concerning mail service. Call 1-800-267-1177 or visit www.canadapost.ca

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