

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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SHOPPING EXPEDITION



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Raphael Leccese wheels his flag-festooned scooter through what looks like a jungle at Hoover Park Drive and Ninth Line to the stores on Main Street in Stouffville last week.

Safety concerns for Canada Post drivers being addressed house by house

Mail service returns for some rural residents

BY AMANDA PERSICO
 Staff Writer

You've got mail. For some York Region residents, that still means driving to a community mailbox. In early 2006, a decision to cease rural Canada Post mail delivery was handed down by Human Resources and Social Development Canada because it was deemed a safety hazard for rural carriers. Prior to the decision, more than

1,700 safety concerns were raised and 40 human resources rulings were brought against Canada Post regarding the safety of rural carriers. "With all the safety concerns, we could not come to a mutual agreement about rural routes," said Scott Lewis, the Greater Toronto Area spokesperson for Canada Post. "We hope the temporary mailboxes will be only temporary." Rural mailboxes were moved to

community mailboxes, usually at the end of the road, until traffic assessments meet human resources safety criteria. The cancellation of driveway delivery brought a storm of controversy from rural residents who were furious the service would no longer be available. Many senior citizens complained they often could not get into town in winter to pick up mail because of weather or poor health.

Whitchurch-Stouffville resident Frank Van Veen used a community mailbox for more than two years. The box stood 600 metres east of his home near the corner of St. John's Sideroad and McCowan Road. "It was a pain in the butt," he said. "In the winter, the locks froze. You couldn't get to the mailbox sometimes because of the snow banks." Over the past two-and-a-half

years, Canada Post has done traffic assessments to many of the 843,000 rural addresses. In along some rural routes, mail is stuffed back into the homeowner's original mailbox at the end of the laneway. Mr. Van Veen noticed some of his neighbours moving their mailboxes earlier in June. He then received a letter from Canada Post saying that his mailbox location was unsafe for

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