



3 Music festival celebrates summer's bounty

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PITCHING IN

Changes could be ahead for rural mail

MP remains critical of Canada Post's actions

AMANDA PERSICO
Staff Writer

After being stopped two years ago, rural mail delivery is slowly returning.

But for Oak Ridges-Markham MP Lui Temelkovski, who waged war against Canada Post since the decision, it's not happening fast enough.

And now a Canada Post review, which critics say could recommend privatizing the Crown corporation, is further raising his hackles, although his office confirms privatization or deregulation are mere rumours.

After rural mail delivery service was pulled over carrier safety concerns in 2006, Mr. Temelkovski introduced a private members' bill calling for Canada Post to maintain traditional driveway delivery for the 843,000 Canadians living on rural routes. The bill passed unanimously, with support from all parties.

But the slow return of the service is unacceptable, Mr. Temelkovski said.

And for some of those once again enjoying rural mail delivery, it hasn't been easy.

During the past 2-1/2 years, Canada Post has reviewed and assessed its rural delivery routes, leaving some residents still trekking to communal boxes.

Privatization is not listed as a function of the strategic review.

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STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Residents of Richard Underhill Avenue and Walter Sangster Road cleaned up around the water reservoir off Reeves Way Boulevard Saturday. They included Mandy Girard, 12, (from left) Matt McMinn, 9, Sara Girard, 14, Lauren Lambert, 9, (in front) who organized the event, Skylar Girard, 8 and Luke McMinn, 11. More than 20 bags of trash were collected.

Energy use continues to drop since peaking two years ago

Rain not only thing to fall this summer

BY PATRICK MANGION
Staff Writer

It has been a dream summer for those charged with the task of keeping the lights on.

But try telling that to sun worshippers, holding out hope for warmer days.

Talk of blistering hot summer conditions is often followed by dire warnings from power authorities, struggling to keep air conditioners cranking.

But that hasn't been the case this year.

At Hydro One, which provides power distribution to Whitchurch-Stouffville, Georgina, King Township and East Gwillimbury, province-wide energy use was down 7 per cent last month, compared to July 2007 and a 10-per-cent decrease from June 2007 and June 2008.

Consumption peaked in Ontario on Aug. 1, 2006 when 27,005 megawatts were needed.

Nine of the 20 highest-consumption days on record happened in 2005, while 2006 and 2007 each claimed four.

But there hasn't been a day so far this year that has come close to those numbers.

Demand has exceeded 24,000 megawatts for only four hours so far this summer, compared with 32 hours last June and July.

At Newmarket Hydro, it's all calm, so far, said company president Paul Ferguson.

Power consumption has been dropping steadily during the summer months since 2006.

During June and July, Newmarket consumption peaked at 135 megawatts, compared to 147 megawatts for the same period last year; an 8.5-per-cent decrease.

Two years ago, when conditions were warmer and the hydro company didn't have any conservation programs, peak demand hit dan-

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