

More mail troubles for Parkview residents

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

As Canada Post deals with a backlog of 40 million letters, Parkview Village residents were hit with an additional problem.

The Stouffville seniors' residence missed a day or two of delivery this week because the regular carrier was on vacation and the replacement worker quit after one day.

"It left us kind of scrambling. We had some struggles covering," said Eugene Knapik, spokesperson for Canada Post.

Mr. Knapik said Thursday there would be delivery the remainder of this week, however, it might occur later than normal.

"We really appreciate the patience of our Parkview Village customers," he said.

Sorting machines are running 24 hours a day at plants across the country and processing has doubled from nine million to 18 million pieces a day.

Canada Post experienced a \$200-million loss during last month's rotating strikes and 14-day lockout.

The backlog is expected to be cleared by the end of next week.



SUN-TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Mail service was getting back to normal this week for most Canadians, but not at the Parkview Village seniors complex in Stouffville.

With files from Torstar News Service

WE'RE MOVING (FINALLY)

Yes folks, the long awaited and anticipated move is about to take place. We will be closing our store on this Sunday at 5:00 pm - and re-opening at our new site on Friday morning - 9:00 am - at 4476 16th Ave - which is just slightly west of Kennedy Rd., on the north side. We will need the time between to disconnect and re-connect some of the heavy equipment, and to stock our store to be ready for the big day. For us, the closing of our store will be a pretty nostalgic moment. I can recall when we built it. My very newborn son, Thomas, would come (with Cathy) for daily visits. He's now 21 and working in the kitchen, and as unbelievable as it may seem to those who know him, he's cooking at home. All the little changes to our business along the way, the turkey line-ups, the plant shed, the annual outdoor plant episode, all that our store has been and meant to us and many, many others will be coming to an end in its current form.

What will take its place is a new and larger store, but with essentially the same character as the old. We'll have more space in the various departments so items can be displayed beside one another rather than in layers and the 'other' stock isn't in the back fridge, but on display, too. We'll have a cheese display sufficient to make any cow (or goat) proud, we'll have more bakery display counters - and even more samples - and a fresh produce section with a whole bunch more organically grown products. Our meat section will be bigger in two ways - more counter space to allow for some imaginative preparations, and our fresh sausage-making table will be out front in full view - and you can watch your burgers being made there as well. Our flower section will be last in line rather than first - so that your arrangements don't get crushed by the milk - and what a flower section it will be, with our indoor gazebo and all!

New to us will be a café where we'll be featuring very freshly-roasted coffee from Velvet Sunrise of Stouffville. There you will be able to get amazing sandwiches, salads and during the day, hot foods and soups - and if you've got the time, you can sit and eat (and chat) right there. I was under siege by many of our regulars to maintain that ambience and coziness of our old store and judging by the comments of those who have visited, we have achieved that and more.

There will be three phases to our move: The first is the store itself, and the two downstairs kitchens which provide daily fresh products for the store; the second is the move from our commissary on Bullock Drive. This is where we make the frozen entrées and the like, and the third move will be the outfitting of the Queen Bees' Cooking School, which will be located upstairs in the windowed area. I'm very excited that Linda and Karen have decided to be part of our big new project.

Many people have collaborated on this project, from most of my hockey buddies who did the first major big clean-up (if you can imagine 60 guys cleaning) to my buddy John who helped lay some concrete blocks (it was the thought that counted) and to my brother-in-law, Doug, who spent countless evening and weekend hours making the suspended ceiling grid that all the baskets hang from, to my buddies (Mark and Bob) at my workshop who made all the store fixtures (more than 80 pieces in all) to Tom Wolfe's landscape crew (Unionville Property Care) who worked indoors over winter...and this might be a surprise to some that I say this, and to the folks at the Town who took the time to help me out in getting our big dream transformed from paper to reality.

This has been a major project for us and has taken more time, effort - and money - than ever imagined! I must say that we are very happy with the result, and we really hope that you'll like it as well.

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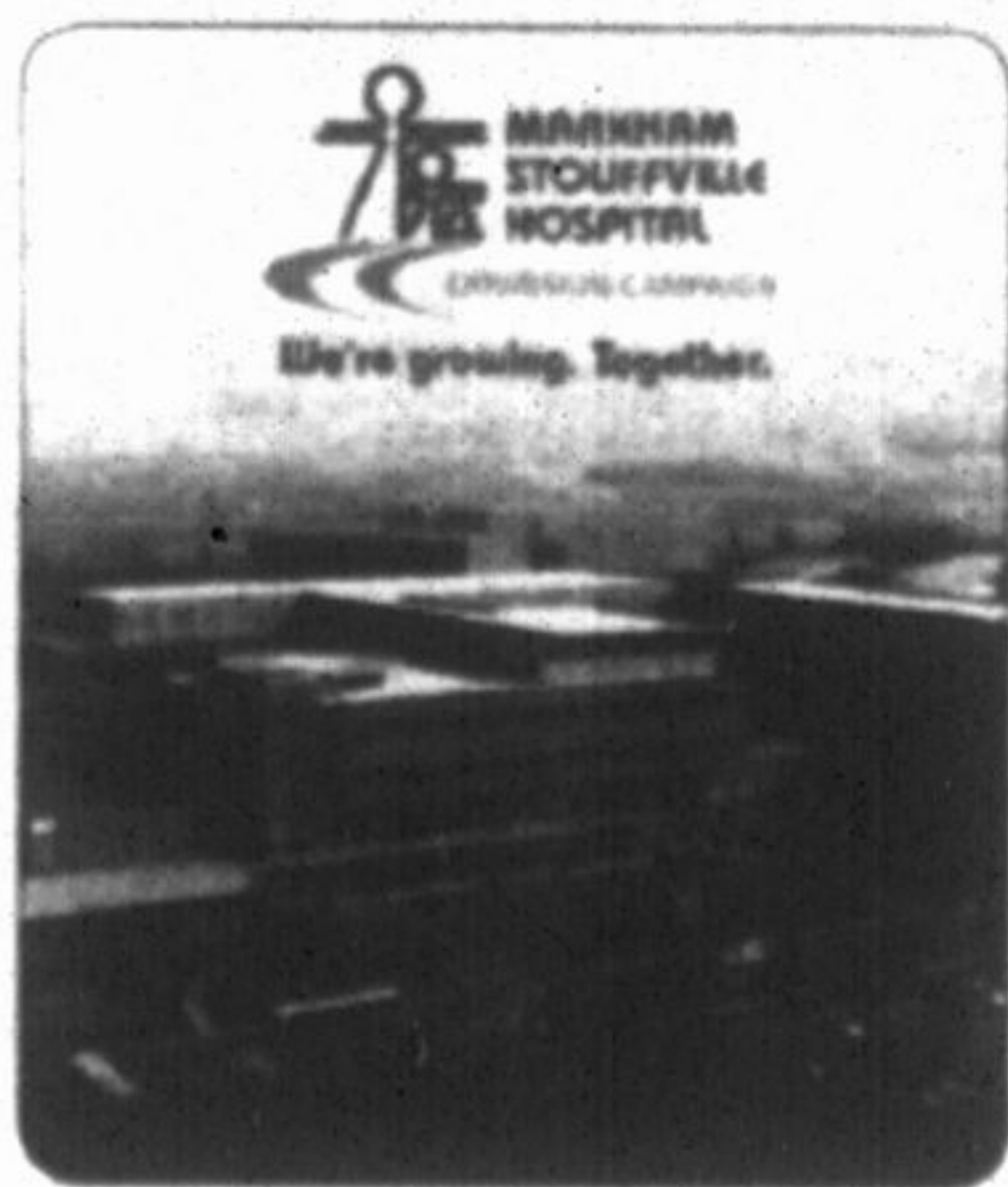
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