



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee**

From: **Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator**

Meeting Date: **September 3, 2015**

Subject: **Report PACAC15-025
Impact of Community Mailboxes on Heritage Properties**

Purpose

A report to provide the PACAC with information about the potential impact of the installation of community mailboxes by Canada Post on, or in proximity to, individual heritage properties and heritage conservation districts.

Recommendation

That the PACAC approve the recommendation outlined in Report PACAC15-025, dated September 3, 2015 of the Heritage Resources Coordinator:

That the report about the potential impact of the installation of community mailboxes by Canada Post on, or in proximity to, individual heritage properties and heritage conservation districts be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no direct budget or financial implications resulting from this report.

Background

In 2014 Canada Post Corporation, citing rapidly dwindling rates of letter mail requiring delivery, announced a five year plan to phase out door to door delivery to the 32% of Canadian households and businesses still receiving the service. The rationale is predicated on a federal government desire that the postal service not become a drain on taxpayers and the belief that significant saving in labour costs will lead to financial self sufficiency. The installation of community mailboxes is predicted by the company to generate the largest cost savings in its Five Point Action Plan for financial sustainability.

The location of community mailboxes is recognized by Canada Post as a planning matter and the corporation has committed to a process of municipal consultation. The process includes meeting with municipal planning departments to exchange information on potential locations for new community mailboxes. Canada Post has indicated that locations are determined based on factors such as safety, accessibility and proximity to the addresses they serve. Canada Post's Delivery Planning Standards Manual makes no reference to heritage as a criteria for determining locations. To date there has been only preliminary discussion by City Staff.

For this report, staff queried the Ontario Heritage Planner's Roundtable listserv for experiences in other municipalities where community mailboxes have started to be installed in established neighbourhoods. The responses vary. Some municipalities have found creative solutions and others express frustration over the process. A summary of these comments are included as Appendix A of this report.

Submitted by,

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Heritage Resources Coordinator

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Attachment:
Appendix A- Heritage Planner Feedback Regarding Community Mailbox