PACAC15-025 Appendix A Heritage Planner Feedback Regarding Community Mailbox

In Mississauga the Meadowvale Village Heritage Conservation District lost its door to door delivery in the 1990s. The neighbourhood had originally included a 19th century band stand removed in the early 20th century. When the area went to mail boxes, Canada Post agreed to have the boxes put under a replica gazebo on the site of the original 19th century gazebo. The neighbourhood is satisfied with the solution and when the HCD Plan for the Village was revised in 2012-2014, the mailbox gazebo was identified as a heritage attribute by the residents.

Ottawa Planning staff report, on the other hand has expressed concerns that community mailboxes will have a negative impact on their HCDs and have had only limited success in having heritage considered as a factor in the location process.

Property owners in Oakville heritage districts were concerned with the installation of community mailboxes. The city chose to have the owners work directly with Canada Post on disputes over locations impacting heritage buildings. It is reported that at least one owner was successful in getting a proposed location moved away from his house, based on the negative impact on the heritage value of his property.

City staff in York Region have expressed concern regarding the placement of a community mailbox in front of the designated Heintzman House. They believe that placing a mailbox in front of the historic house would be an anachronism that will detract from the ambience of the property during events such as weddings, from which revenue is made.

The Heritage Committee in Stratford has expressed concerns that community mailboxes could damage heritage value on designated properties, landscapes, and districts. Heritage Stratford put forward a recommendation to the City Council Sub-Committee for Heritage and Planning that, "The MHC be consulted regarding the appearance and placement of community mailboxes that are being installed in the Heritage Conservation District, Heritage Corridors, and any designated property in Stratford".