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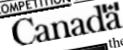
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Postal Closures Would Have Serious Impact on Rural Community

According to our Member of Parliament, Leon Benoit, plans have been quietly made considering the removal of more services for residents as Canada Post mulls its options including more rural office closures. Now, we suspect that Canada Post brass will deny this move, but after seeing a list of 11 names of communities that might be impacted in this constituency alone, everyone should look carefully.

Canada Post was designed to serve all Canadians, not just those that live in larger towns and cities, however today many in rural areas already have a lower level of service when it comes to receiving mail. How many hundreds of thousands of city people have the luxury of walking a very short distance to pick up their mail—some only to their front door—while their rural cousins have to make the trip downtown to their post office for the same service? And how many more thousands in the rural areas have to drive at least five or 10 miles to pick up their cheques, bills and reading material on a daily basis?

But the economic consequences of shutting down a post office at Amisk, Metiskow or Cadogan is even more serious because it puts struggling rural communities at further risk for their survival. More people will be forced to larger centres like Provost to pick up their mail, so when there, they will make other purchases, hurting the viability of the important smaller communities. Yes, some postal outlets may be expensive to run, but then again, CBC radio and television, the military and many other institutions like hospitals ultimately controlled by the feds have massive taxpayer support to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars annually and those taxpayer operations continue to roll along, serving Canadians from coast to coast "in the national interest."

By the way, don't let those in charge of the Kyoto agreement (in another Ottawa department) know about this postal suggestion or they might have a fit (or at least pretend to) when hundreds of our neighbours might eventually have to fire up their half ton trucks or vans and drive an extra 10 or 20 miles (one way) just to get their mail, burning all that extra fuel every single day because more postal offices shut down across the land.

We appreciate the underlying belief that the closure of smaller postal offices is being done for fiscal reasons. But there are some things where the government

Comment

Seen Around Town

Bowlers having a wind up supper and trophy presentation Friday night.

That big project for Main Street and others now out for tender so the town should hear firm costs by the end of the month and then decide what to do.

Some out mowing lawns and raking leaves and we see the town street sweeper out as well, spiffing things up.

A few people trying to facilitate high speed Internet for those living close enough in the country.

Congratulations to Wilf Nett on being appointed fire marshal. Wilf has served 49 years here on the volunteer fire brigade!

Volunteer Week now

will just have to pay up (with our money, not theirs, for they really don't generate cash much at all) for an essential service.

It seems meanwhile that many more Canadians are beginning to suspect that some in the governing Liberals have been preoccupied with your money as we read more about the Gomery commission that is telling an interesting story, witness, by witness.

Rural post office users deserve more than a bag of money left on the table. They deserve proper mail delivery like so many others who pay the same rate for the service.

Write your Member of Parliament, Canada Post or mail a letter to the editor if you care about the proposed closures here. Postal service should be built up, not pared down.

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underway. There are hundreds in the community who selflessly give their time and talents for the betterment of many—well done and thank you.

Soccer players eyeing the new soccer field on the south east edge of town but it appears the earth has settled a bit and some smoothing out will have to take place.

Good to see that STA School is again co-operating with a group called the Alberta Association for Community Living to help people with developmental disabilities. The school was collecting items until April 19.

Churches of the District Welcome You... AGC PROVOST ASSOCIATED GOSPEL CHURCH, RIBSTONE CONGREGATION, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, PROVOST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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