June 16, 2015

Dear City of London Councillors:

I am writing to you to express my concerns, at the municipal level, for the proposed implementation of community mailboxes by Canada Post. I have a number of concerns with Canada Post's plan to install the CMBs in existing neighbourhoods where there was never a plan to accommodate their presence.

I am concerned about the safety of the citizens of London whose neighbourhoods are slotted to receive CMBs. I worry about the fact that many of these streets do not have sidewalks, or even curbs. How are the area residents expected to safely reach their assigned CMB without sidewalks? What about those without sidewalks on their side of the road? Where should they cross to retrieve their mail?

Does this mean that our municipality is left with the financial burden of installing sidewalks and curbs to help to increase pedestrian safety? If safety is deemed to be an important enough reason to install sidewalks, who will pay to maintain and clear those sidewalks in the winter? Where does the liability lie? Is the city of London in a position to be dealing with lawsuits due to a slip and fall as a result of neighbours venturing out each day in precarious situations to collect their mail?

What about the fact that many of these older streets without sidewalks or curbs are extremely narrow? Is the city liable if a pedestrian is hit while walking on the road to retrieve their mail? What about in the winter when the streets are narrower due to the snowbanks?

If the city allows and encourages people to walk to collect their mail are they responsible for the safety of those walking on the older, outdated and narrow streets lacking sidewalks?

If sidewalks and curbs are to be installed, will our taxes increase to offset the cost? Do they have to repave the roads as well? Will the underground infrastructure need to be addressed at that time too? These subdivisions are quite old. Do roads or lawns need to be regraded to accommodate the new ground level created by the installation of curbs?

Because Canada Post is retrofitting the mailboxes in whole neighbourhoods having the same characteristic lack of sidewalks, simply moving the mailbox location will not solve the problem. The answer is to not put CMBs where there is no preplanned designated location for them in the first place.

The city of London should really consider how the implementation of these CMBs will impact its budget and the pocketbooks of its citizens as we are left on the hook for a myriad of expenses related to Canada Post's plan.

I believe that there needs to be a review of the financial impact that this change will have on our municipality and how it impacts its liability in terms of the safety of its citizens. Please consider a full review of the cost to our city before this plan is allowed to proceed.

Sincerely, Karen D.

A concerned London resident