

June 11, 2007

Subject: Steveston Post should be modelled after 170 year old Town of York post office.

Mayor & Council:

You may find the attached links about Canada's Oldest working Post Office (Originally opened in Town of YORK ~170 years ago, reopened a little over 20 years ago - York now City of Toronto).

This Post Office has been featured on a Canadian Stamp series, and is (or was 20 years ago) an excellent example of how a historical society and Canada Post can cooperate on an outlet that is both a historical and tourist attraction. (It is in downtown Toronto about 3 blocks east of Union Station, in a tourist /gentrifying area.)

I first came across it 20 years ago when looking for an area near where I lived where I could post letters on SUNDAY.

I feel this is the appropriate template for a post office in Steveston. I mentioned it to Graham Turnbull months ago as a template for discussion with Canada Post, but I'm not sure if he was able to locate information about it. Here are current internet links:

<http://www.townofyork.com/mode!!/legend34.html>

You'll note that unlike the Steveston Post Office desire to close on Sundays and during the day, this post office was a very busy 7 day operation when opened 170 years ago, and again runs 7 days now!

<http://www.townofyork.com/service.html>

The group in Steveston should think of positioning themselves similarly, operating when the tourist and customer market wants them open, add the additional boxes Canada Post wants (but make them historically authentic). Add items like quill pens, cross writing, (a wood burning stove?). Signage should be provided to meet Canada Post requirement - but should be period (The location put out a sign board).

They should play to the tourist town they are in just like other Steveston businesses, which deal with tourists and are open 7 days. The City could help them by offering a little cash help for their noon hour and Sunday open time.

I suspect they could be a profitable Steveston tourist attraction, and another link in a Steveston part of a Richmond Museum destination.

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