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Postie pooped out

Bird droppings stop mailman

By GREG MacDONALD
Toronto Sun

Neither driving rain, nor sleet, nor hail ... but pigeon poop is a different matter for Canada Post.

Tenants of a downtown house have had their mail delivery suspended because Canada Post says their property is a "health issue" and poses a hazard to their letter carrier.

"Garbage ... pigeon (droppings) ... dog poop ... We had a letter carrier there who got lice from being on this property," said Gerry Giorgi, a supervisor at Station P.

Giorgi said letter carriers don't have to deliver mail if they "decide it's dangerous for them. Ultimately, if the letter carrier thinks he's putting himself in a health risk, it's his decision."

Giorgi added that the tenants of the Bathurst St. house were notified about the suspension of delivery.

But tenants say it's news to them. "Nobody notified us," said tenant Fred Knox, who said she went to the postal station on Tuesday to find out

why no one had received any mail for a week.

"I'm majorly (upset) because I had been waiting for a cheque and a new bank card."

Knox said that when she went to the post office, Giorgi told her the letter carrier refused to deliver because there was too much pigeon excrement by their mailbox.

Knox admitted the pigeons are a problem. There are two nests on the ledge above the front door, "but there's nothing much we can do about them," she said.

Dr. Richard Gould, associate medical public health officer, said pigeon feces can be dangerous if someone with a compromised immune system disturbs a large accumulation and breathes in the spores, but "normal exposure (is) not going to be an issue."

Landlord Joe Goldberg, reached last night, said this was the first he had heard of the problem. **9979**

He said he plans to hire a company to clean up the mess and get rid of the nests.



GROUND ZERO
... Tenant Fred Knox kneels next to the bird droppings that are keeping letter carriers at bay.

— Greg MacDonald, SUN