

A volunteer fireman

This mailman handles 20,000 letters a day

By Linda Kirby

When Stewart Metcalf arrives at his Milton office each morning, he faces more than the usual amount of business correspondence.

In fact, he deals with approximately 20,000 pieces of mail daily as Milton's letter carrier co-ordinator.

The 33-year-old Burlington resident assumed the postal job in January following the promotion of former co-ordinator Tom Shields from Milton to Toronto.

The job is not entirely new for Mr. Metcalf.

He began with the Burlington Post Office 13 years ago as a letter carrier and worked his way up to a relief carrier and in 1976, a letter carrier supervisor.

His responsibility covers 14 letter carriers and their routes.

The day begins at 6.45 a.m. when he arrives to supervise the sorting of the mail delivered to the Steeles Ave. office from main post office on Main St. E.

Although he does not do the actual sorting, he makes sure the necessary staff is present and that delivering schedules are on time.

Public relations plays a vital role in his job.

"I try to establish a good working relationship with the employees and the public," he explained, adding much of the success of the local post office depends upon the employees.

Approximately 6,000 calls are paid daily to

Milton residences and business offices. He doesn't receive many complaint calls, he said, "maybe two".

At Christmas time, he estimates the local office handles about triple the amount of normal daily mail, or approximately 60,000 pieces of mail.

One of the newer aspects of his position involves the co-ordination of mail trucks.

In Burlington, the truck service is handled by contract and he had little to do with that line of service. Now, he is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the five mail trucks.

The trucks deliver mail to various points in the community from where it is picked up by letter carriers. The trucks must also deliver in the rural

parts of Milton.

A normal trip for a letter carrier means approximately 350 calls with a sack of about 50 pounds of letters.

The majority of the carriers will not, however, take on more than 35 pounds of mail at one time. The remainder is left at specific post office boxes, to be delivered later in the day.

Acting in a supervisory capacity does not stop at watching the mail go out, explained Mr. Metcalf.

"Walk evaluation" reports are one of many items of paperwork to be done.

Each route is timed and recorded.

Statistics are kept on the amount of mail, routes and the efficiency of the postal trucks, with the objective to improve service wherever possible.

Mr. Metcalf said he does not have any immediate plans for changes in the present service.

"I came here very open minded," he said. With just one month

behind him, he said he is enjoying the job and working with the employees but admits he does have his eye set on new horizons.

"Depending upon the opportunities," he said he hopes to move beyond his present position.

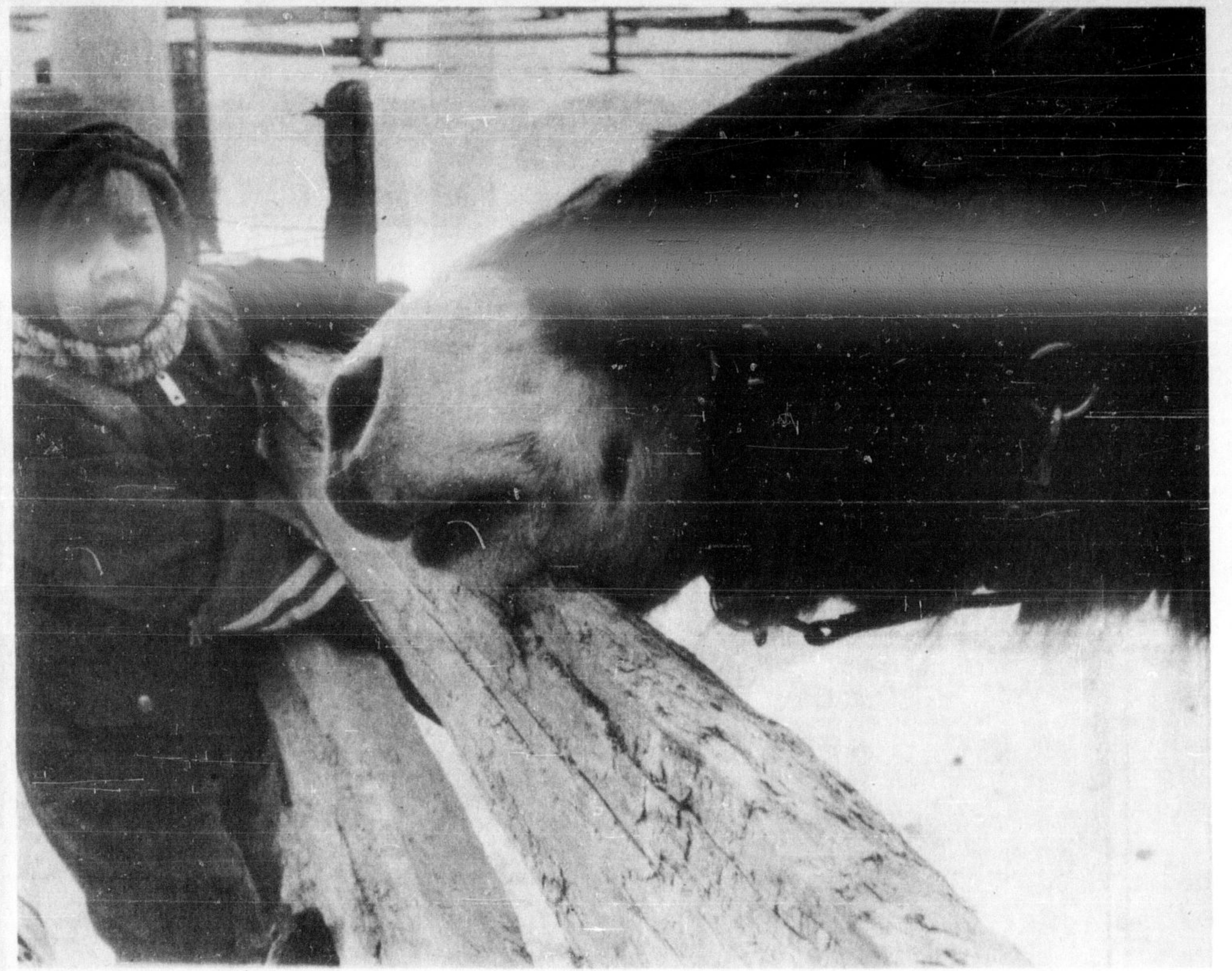
His familiarity with postal routes in Burlington has also kept him busy with a sideline job as a delivery man for Sears in Burlington.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, he is a volunteer firefighter for Burlington. It is a position he has held for the past two years, and one he says he enjoys.

An avid sports fan, Mr. Metcalf is a member of a Burlington "pick-up hockey" team which plays every Sunday morning.

He is also secretary-treasurer of the Association of Post Offices of Canada.

Mr. Metcalf is married with a wife, Cathy. He has two children, Jeanette, eight and Jeffrey, three.



WHAT BIG WHISKERS you have, notes this young visitor of an equine member at the Bronte Provincial Park. The farm horse has grown plenty of winter fur

to keep himself warm in the cold, but he is also accustomed to plenty of woolly mittens warming his nose as many youngsters straddle the fence to reach him.



STEWART METCALF is Milton's new letter carrier co-ordinator. He assumed his post January following the promotion of former co-ordinator Tom Shields from the Milton Post Office to a branch of the Toronto Post Office.

Officer cites risk of 2,660 accidents

With 2,660 children riding bicycles to school at peak periods, the importance of bicycle safety is one of the areas requiring continuing work, P.C. Raj Swaminathan, safety officer of the Halton Regional Police recently told Milton Rotarians.

The officer, who serves Milton, Gerogetown and Acton areas of north Halton, is also responsible for a variety of safety programs.

He noted manpower limitations restrict the amount of work that is possible but noted a plan

is currently being developed to provide parents with an alert when their children are riding bicycles unsafely. A "ticket" will be handed out that requires the signature of the parent and return to the police.

Much of the work of the safety officer, however, is in meeting the children, in developing information on cross walks, on handling complaints, speaking to groups, working with the Halton Safety Council and assisting in the

school safety patrol program.

Mr. Swaminathan noted that up to 2,700 school patrollers are involved in Halton with about 700 attending the Ottawa jamboree last year. Eight bus loads went from Milton to the Ice Capades last year as a special outing.

The officer praised the co-operation of the Halton Board and the Halton Separate School Board as well as the work of Hamilton Automobile Club, and the Halton Safety Council.

Rotarians host mountain climber

A Japanese mountain climber who aspires to be a diplomat is the next exchange student the Milton Rotary Club will be hosting.

Noboru Nakanishi, a 17-year-old student from Kawaguchi City, will be coming for a 10-month stay at the end of March.

Rotarian Burke McNeill said Mr. Nakanishi will be the seventh student the club has hosted since it began participating in the program several years ago.

Although Mr. McNeill said he has arranged accommodation for part of Mr. Nakanishi's stay, he is looking for other families who would be willing to host the youth.

Mathematics and the English language are Mr. Nakanishi's main school interests while he lists foreign films, popular music and books as his hobbies.

"I have been learning English for five years and can read and write rather well," he said in his Rotary interview "though can't express myself orally so well."

"I'm very much looking forward to seeing so many foreign people and I want to have mutual understanding and friendly relation with them."

Mr. Nakanishi is an above average student. His report card shows A's in national language, history, mathematics and English with B's in social studies, geography, science, physical education and art.

The purpose of the exchange program is to acquaint students with different countries.

Operated by Rotary International, the exchange is one-to-one.

Mr. McNeill said Milton has hosted two students from Denmark and one from New Zealand, Brazil and Japan. The club is currently hosting a Swedish youth.

Students from Milton have been sent to Australia, Belgium, Mexico and Philippines via Rotary.

Warehouse in Toronto and a trip to the Ice Follies. One sorority meeting featured a program on service and a film on the Red Cross.

Molsons Breweries will be the rendezvous for the sorority in March. Invited on the trip are members' husbands.

A bottle drive is being organized in the latter part of May.

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Sorority to visit Molsons Breweries

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