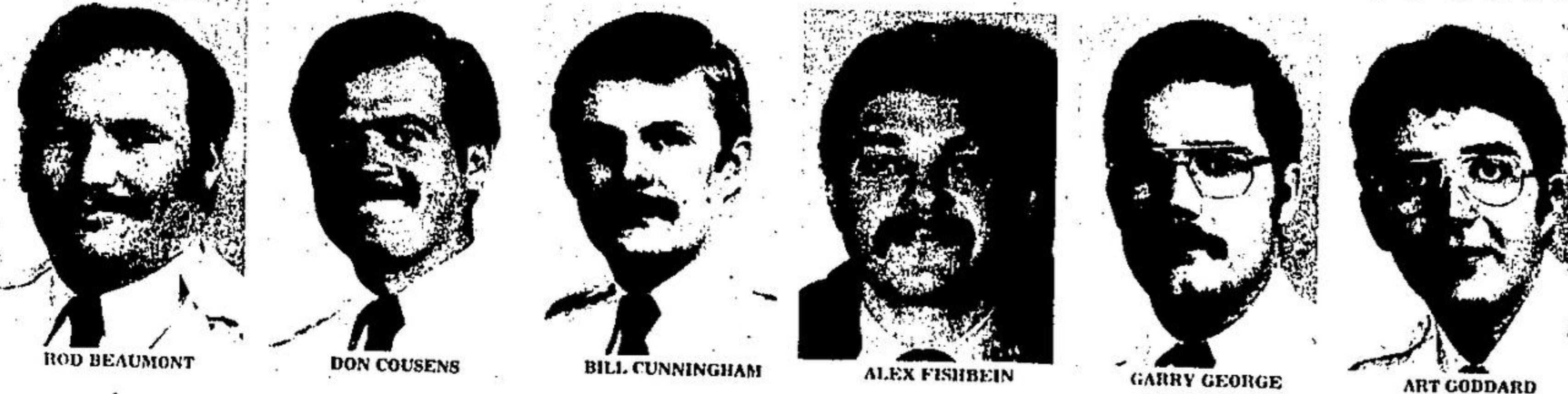


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Acton meets its new police force Feb. 6

The Halton Regional Police force has announced the names of the 12 officers who are now permanently stationed in Acton.

Halton Chief James Harding, a number of senior members of the force, representatives from the Youth Bureau, the Crime Prevention Bureau and traffic safety, along with as many of the 12 officers as possible, will be on hand in Acton Feb. 6 at the Legion to meet with members of the public.

The meeting, which will run from 10 a.m. to noon and from 7 to 8:30 p.m., will feature slide presentations, as well as a chance for Actonians to meet with the officers, who are now working only in Acton.

The appointment of 12 officers from District 1 to be permanently stationed in Acton is one of the moves Chief Harding hopes will resolve complaints by Actonians about the quality of policing in the community. Several Acton residents said they felt isolated from the police force because they didn't know the officers working in the area.

Each of the 12 officers has been on patrol in Acton at one time or another. The difference is that now, rather than patrolling throughout Halton Hills, these officers will be on patrol only in Acton.

Nine of the 12 officers now live in Halton Hills. Three are past residents of the area, now living in Hillsburgh and Grand Valley. All 12 hold the rank of constable.

Rod Beaumont, 24, has been a police officer for four years. He has lived in Halton Hills most of his life, but now lives in Hillsburgh.

Don Cousens, 23, has three-and-a-half years' experience. He has been a Halton Hills resident most of his life and now lives in Georgetown.

Bill Cunningham, 33, is a 14-year veteran, having joined the old Georgetown force as a cadet. He has been a Halton Hills resident all his life, and still lives in Georgetown.

Alex Fishbein, 29, has ten years' experience, and has been living in Georgetown for the past four years.

Garry George, 27, has been a police officer five-and-a-half years, and recently moved from Halton Hills to Hillsburgh.

Art Goddard, 26, has five-and-a-half years' experience, and has been a Georgetown resident for the past two years.

Nick Leoni, 35, has six years' experience, and has been a Georgetown resident for more than six years.

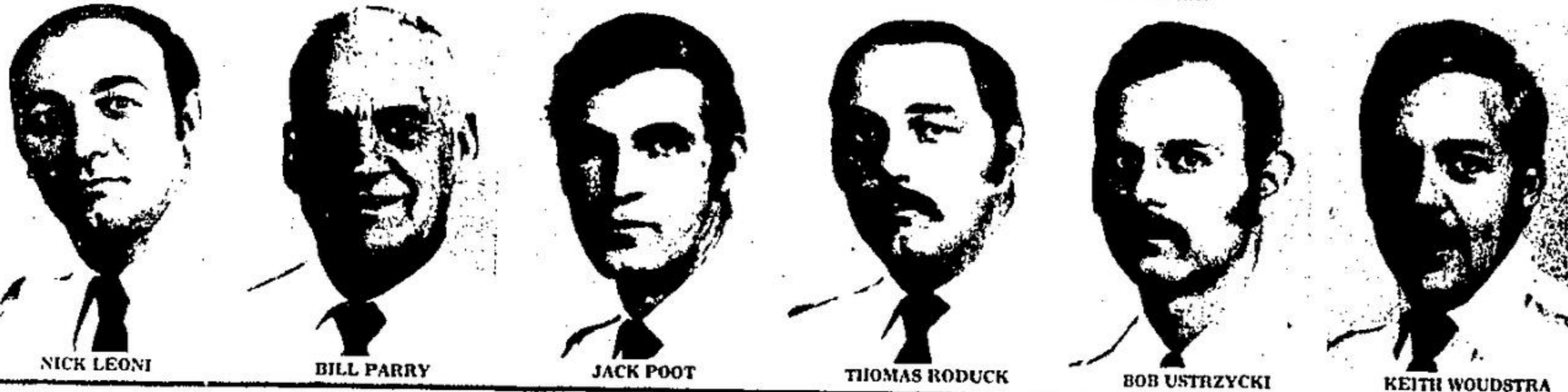
Bill Parry, 54, is a 25-year veteran, and has lived in Halton Hills for the past two-and-a-half years.

Jack Poot, 37, has been a police officer for 13 years, and a Halton Hills resident most of his life. He is now living in the former Esquevas Township.

Tom Roduck, 38, has eight years' experience and has been a Halton Hills resident for the past eight years.

Keith Woudstra, 30, has six years' experience, and has been a Halton Hills resident for the past four years. He is now living in Esquevas.

Bob Ustrzycki, 25, has seven years' experience and recently moved to Grand Valley after living in Halton Hills most of his life.



Police chief readies battle against racism

Halton Regional Police have been authorized to take an active role in combatting racial discrimination.

The Halton Regional Police Commission approved a resolution drawn up by Chief James Harding authorizing members of the force to "take such steps as might be necessary to prevent racial discrimination and to prosecute those involved in its commission".

The resolution also empowers commanders in the three districts to form liaison with the Ontario Human Rights Commission and members of minority groups suffering problems brought about by racial discrimination.

"This is a thing I think we all need to pay attention to," the chief said at the commission meeting Thursday in Oakville.

"We're living in an area which will experience tremendous growth over the next few years. With this growth will come this kind of problems."

The chief said the resolution, which also requires that incidents which are suspected of being racially motivated be drawn to the attention of the District Commander, have been an unwritten policy of the force for some time. This resolution puts the policy on paper.

Racism has caused, and will continue to cause grief to a number of citizens who "because of no better reason than they might look differently, speak or sound differently, eat different foods, wear different clothes or pray to a different god, are singled out as targets for the cretonic, maliciousness of those who practice racial discrimination," the chief said in a letter prefacing the resolution.

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Police Chief wary about publicizing use

Decision on bullet-proof vests awaits survey

The Halton Regional Police Commission has postponed a decision on issuing bullet-proof vests to its officers until an investigation by the Ontario Police Commission and a survey of Halton

officers has been completed. Halton Chief James Harding told The Herald Friday that out of 195 officers surveyed so far, 75 per cent said they'll wear the vests if they're available.

Wearing the vests would probably be mandatory if they were issued at the commission's expense, the chief said. The Ontario Police Commission is conducting an

investigation to determine if bullet-proof vests would be an asset, and the chief said he expects the study to be completed in two or three weeks.

He said he expected that if the OPC investigation favors the vests and a majority of the officers indicate their support, the commission will include the vests in its budget. Officers wearing bullet-proof vests now have either paid for them out of their own pocket or been given them privately.

The chief informed the board of the results of his survey during a confidential portion of the commission meeting Thursday before releasing the figures Friday. He said he would have preferred to have the issue discussed in "cloistered halls", because he is concerned that publicity about policemen wearing the vests would encourage armed criminals to shoot,

since they would run less risk of committing murder.

He is also concerned that criminals who believe the policemen are wearing bullet-proof vests would aim for the head or some other unprotected part of the body.

"All the bullet-proof vest syndrome is doing is forcing us into a posture of a bullet-proof vest; and a gun to enforce the law," the chief told members of the press following Thursday's meeting. "I don't like to see the law enforced that way—it's too magnificent for that... A policeman's symbol of authority should be a badge, and not a bullet-proof vest and a .38."

Detective Constable Bruce Richards, head of the Halton Police Association, says he thinks wearing the vests should be optional, not mandatory. An Oakville woman, Jeannine Kane-Kamel, has opened a bank account to

receive public donations from people who want to help buy vests for the members of the force.

Chief Harding has said he appreciates the concern this woman and others have demonstrated for the safety of his officers, but, while he doesn't wish to minimize his appreciation for their efforts, he thinks the commission will be able to take care of its own.

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Acton Chamber boosting 'Leathertown'

Herald Special

The Acton Chamber of Commerce is looking for anyone interested in helping boost Acton's image as Leathertown.

Chamber secretary Janet Fleming said last week the original idea of promoting Acton's image as Leathertown stemmed from a few ideas she had while talking with another Chamber member.

They were discussing how the Olde Hide House has taken the "bull by the horns" and started to capitalize on the leather image and felt it could be turned into a project for the Chamber.

The chamber board of directors and executive have picked up on their enthusiasm and are prepared to carry it through.

No date has been set for a meeting on the formation of a Leathertown committee. Chamber vice-president John Allinson is among the members who has expressed an interest in joining.

"I anticipate this as something positive for the town," Mrs. Fleming said. "It would be nice for our kids if they could say they knew something about leather because of the community they grew up in. I don't anticipate it becoming some sort of tourist thing with souvenir shops all over or anything like that but why couldn't we be known as Leathertown, Ontario? We should be proud of our leather, not just complain about the smell."

Setting up a leather museum is one of the things Mrs. Fleming feels might be part of the Chamber's promotion scheme. Finding a location with space for exhibits and also sufficient space for parking might pose a problem but it's at least worth thinking about, she said.

The Chamber is in the midst of its annual membership drive this month but she hopes to see the Chamber begin working on its Leathertown campaign in February.

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