

# Police have hired 45 new officers with funding

Bicycle patrol units, a full-time crime analyst and increased visibility are some of the improvements the Halton Regional Police Service has seen since it was able to hire 45 new officers last year through a provincial grant.

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh presented Police Chief Ean Algar a cheque for more than \$455,000 Thursday, covering half the salary costs of the new officers from April to September last year.

A second installment is due some time after September, said Mr. Chudleigh.

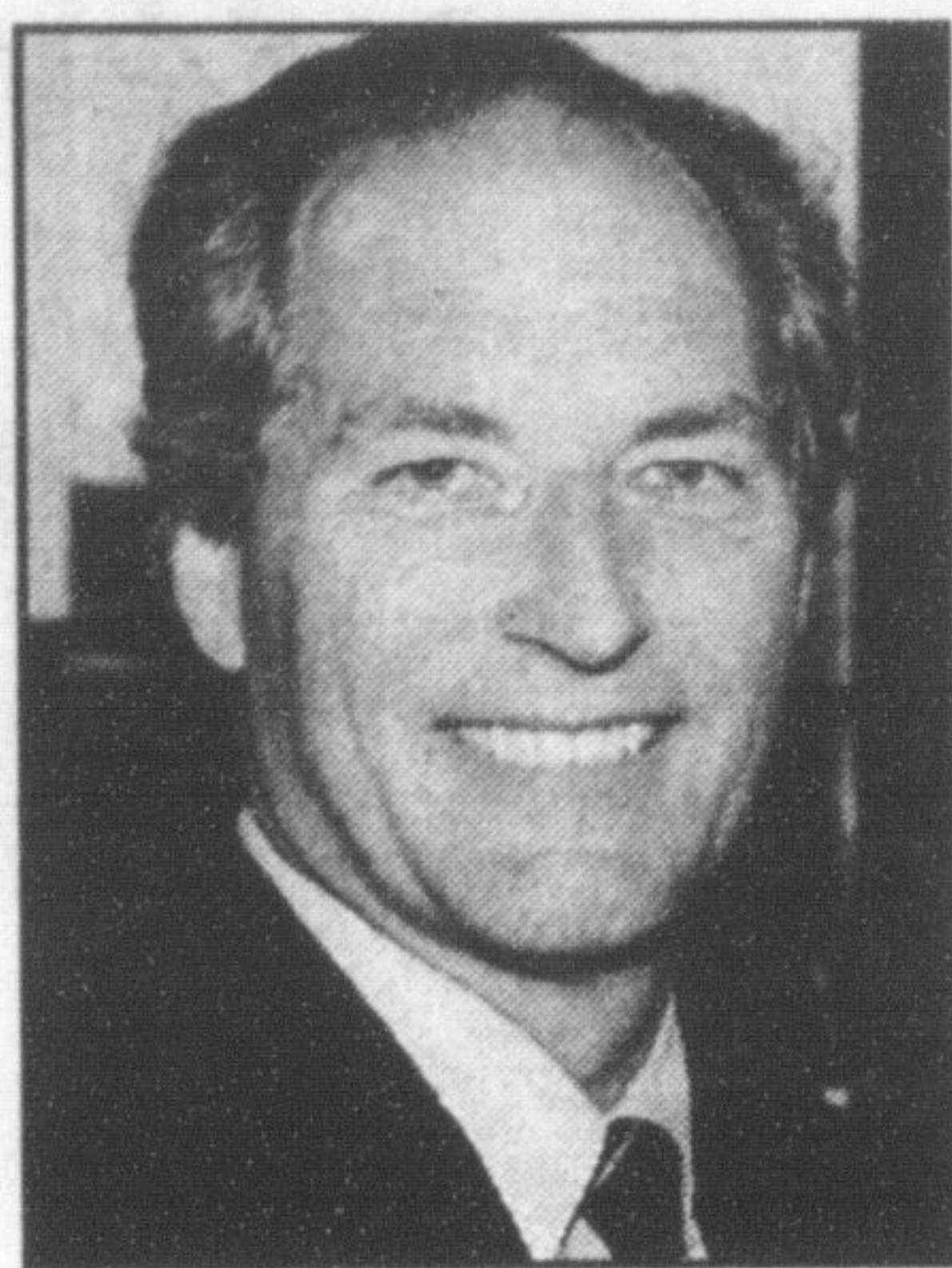
However, the grants aren't a one-time deal, he said.

"We roll it into the funding next year," Mr. Chudleigh said. "We won't expect the municipality to pay for it."

The funds are part of the Province's Community Policing Partnerships program, which boasts a budget of \$35 million annually.

Last year, 1,000 new officers were hired province-wide under the new program.

"This Province has been exceptional to work with," Chief Algar said. "We appreci-



Ted Chudleigh

ate all the help we've gotten."

Through the fund, the Province covers up to \$30,000 or 50 per cent for each new officer hired onto the police service.

The chief commended the Province for its work in securing additional funding and enhancing resources available for police services.

"There's been a lot of great initiatives by this Province," he said, noting improved forensic sciences, case management and province-wide adequacy standards. "(On this path), police services in Ontario will

become the envy of the world." Additional front line-officers are what makes community policing effective, according to Chief Algar.

Through the additional officers Halton has seen many positive changes:

- The street crime unit has been enhanced by providing new training opportunities to existing officers.

- Milton will see the addition of a bicycle patrol unit in the spring, providing greater contact with the community.

- Break and enter and auto theft units have been beefed up.

- Officers have been trained in laser radar use for traffic patrols.

- District one has a full-time crime analyst to help identify crime patterns and research

past incidents and current cases.

- First response officers for sexual assault and domestic violence are better trained to assist victims.

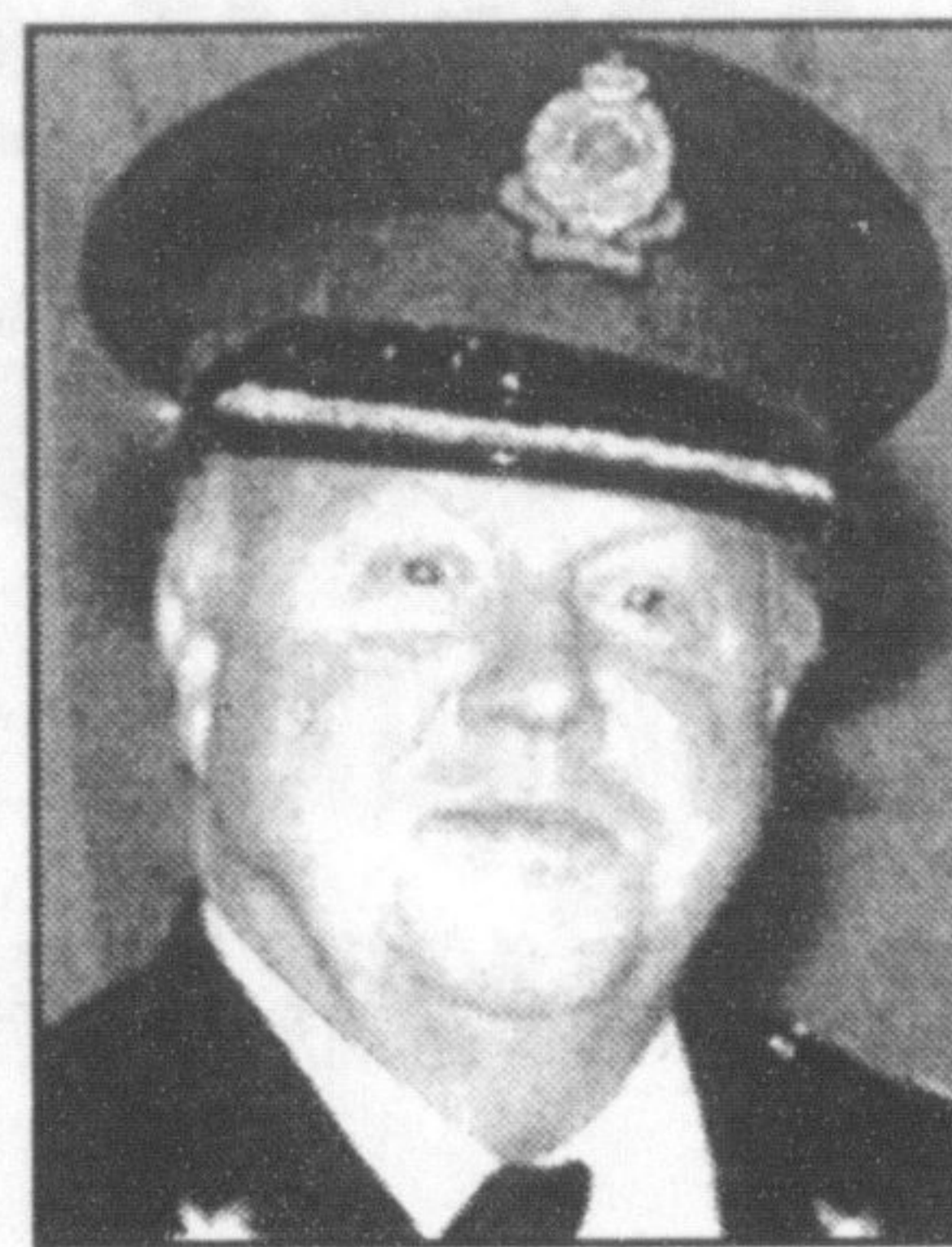
According to Jack Brewer, Halton Regional Police Services Board chair, the funds come at a time when they're most needed.

"The pressure is on for police services to get and keep good people," he said. "All police services are facing that challenge."

Halton boasts the lowest crime rate of any community with a population 100,000 in Canada.

It also has the highest rate of criminal cases cleared of any community in Ontario.

As Halton grows, Chief



Ean Algar

Algar said he hopes the police service will continue to grow.

"There are a lot of challenges we're facing because of the growth," he said, adding that Halton has seen a population growth of 12,000 to 15,000 in past years concentrated mostly

in Milton.

"We will see an increased service demand. And there's competition for the resources available. All police services are competing for new, young constables."

Furthermore, he sees the police service evolving with growth.

"We're going to have to deal with issues of diversity, the aging community, increased traffic," he said.

For 2001, Chief Algar hopes to see even more new faces on the service to help him deal with these challenges.

"We want to hire 15 new officers," he said.

That decision will be left to Halton Region as it will vote on the police service's budget February 28.

## Chief Algar given Order of St. John

Long-time St. John's Ambulance volunteer Halton Regional Police Chief Ean Algar was recently awarded the Order of St. John.

Chief Algar received the medal for his efforts to assist, promote and equip local ambulance brigade members in Oakville and Milton.

The award was presented during a recent ceremony held at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa.

He was nominated for the honour by Doug Kirkwood, training officer on the provincial staff of St. John's Ambulance.

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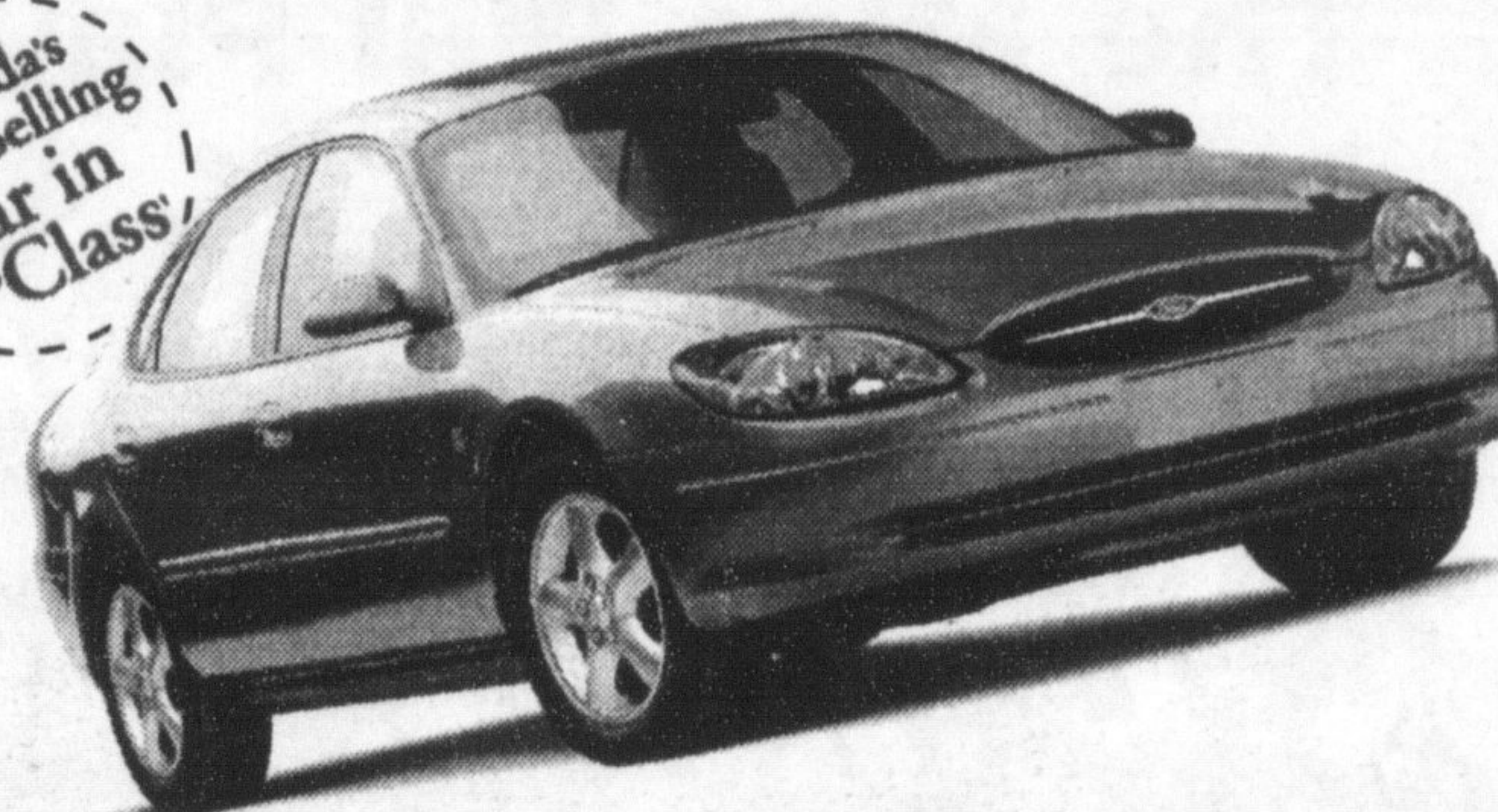
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