

Police get funds for more officers

By HOWARD MOZEL
Special to The Champion

Halton Regional Police continue to reap the benefits of the Community Policing Partnership program.

Last Tuesday, Burlington MPP Cam Jackson presented Chief Ean Algar with a cheque for \$541,013 on behalf of the solicitor general to help pay the cost of additional officers.

"The government of Ontario continues to be very supportive of our efforts to help maintain Halton's reputation as the safest community in Canada," said Chief Algar. "We appreciate this ongoing support and what it means in terms of providing foundational, front-line programs to keep our community safe."

The Community Policing Partnership program — originally a five-year, \$131 million initiative — was announced in 1998 as part of that year's provincial budget. It invests in front-line policing by offering matching funds of up to 50 per cent of the salaries for recently-hired officers for each year of the program.

The balance is paid by municipalities.

Province-wide, the program has met its objective to hire 1,000 police officers. Halton's allotment was 43 officers and as of this week — with the graduation from Police College of eight new officers headed for Halton — the region has hired all 43.

"These additional resources allow us to be more innovative and responsive to crime," said Chief Algar, who wants the public to know that the force is aggressively recruiting new officers.

Halton Regional Police Services Board Chair Jack Brewer said the funding will help ensure Halton remains the safest community in Canada with a population of more than 100,000 — despite the drastic growth the area is undergoing.

"We're really pleased by the back-up and financial support," said Mr. Brewer. "We're going to maintain our standards even though we're growing."

Halton had already received more than \$1.6 million as part of the program and

this week's cheque marked the final installment for the 2000-01 fiscal year. The money will be well-spent, said Mr. Jackson, who added it will go toward an increased police presence and visibility and the ability to target high-crime areas.

In the past, Halton has funneled these funds into the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program and High School Liaison Officers. Money was also earmarked for the Select Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

Funds were also used for everything from community patrols and the operation of storefront locations to increased enforcement and the provision of 24-hour policing.

Other initiatives included robbery prevention programs, strategies for dealing with firearms, hate/bias-motivated crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault, drug abuse and more.

Mr. Jackson said Halton's reputation for innovation makes the money the Province has spent here a wise investment.

Fraud suspects appear in court

Two Milton women — charged with fraud over \$5,000 in July in connection with dealings at the Village Pine Shoppe in Campbellville — will return to Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton August 23.

Oriana Currie and Sheri Duff made a brief appearance in court Thursday with the intent of setting a trial date.

But because the lawyer representing Ms Currie had just received new information pertaining to the case, setting a trial date was postponed for two weeks.

Counsel representing Ms Duff wasn't present in court.

Drug charges laid

A 40-year-old Milton man was arrested Wednesday after police stopped a car on Hwy. 401 near James Snow Pkwy. as part of a continuing investigation.

A small amount of heroin, a number of hypodermic needles and drug debt lists were found during a search of the driver.

Officers also discovered 100 blank prescriptions pads from a doctor's office in Toronto.

The man is charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of stolen property and will appear in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton October 4.

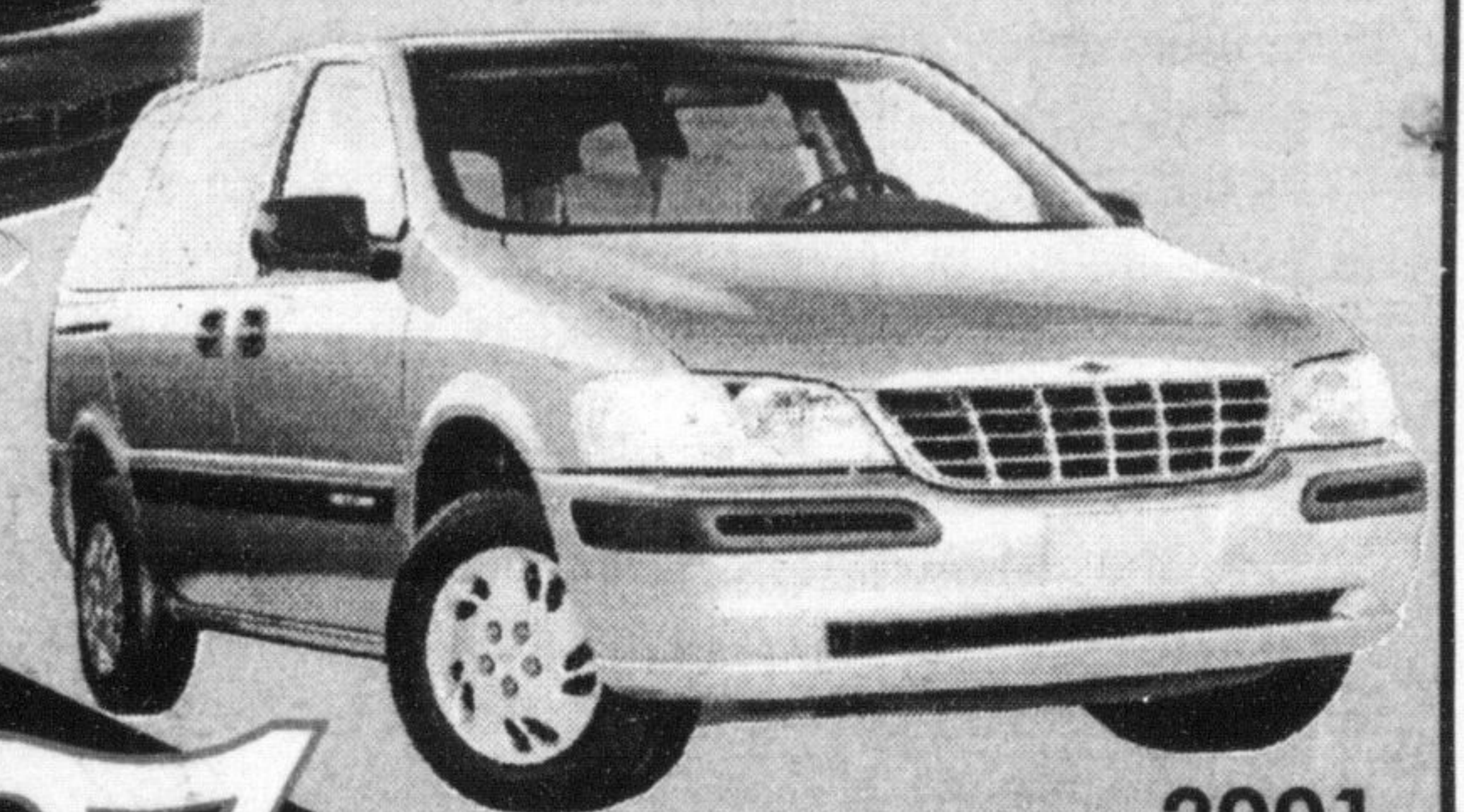
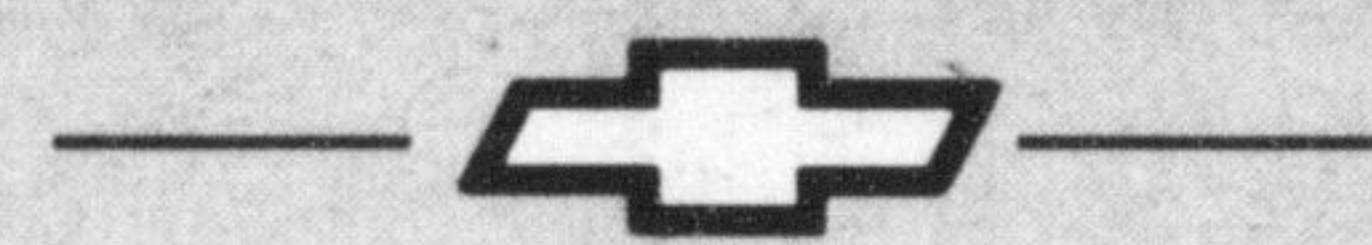
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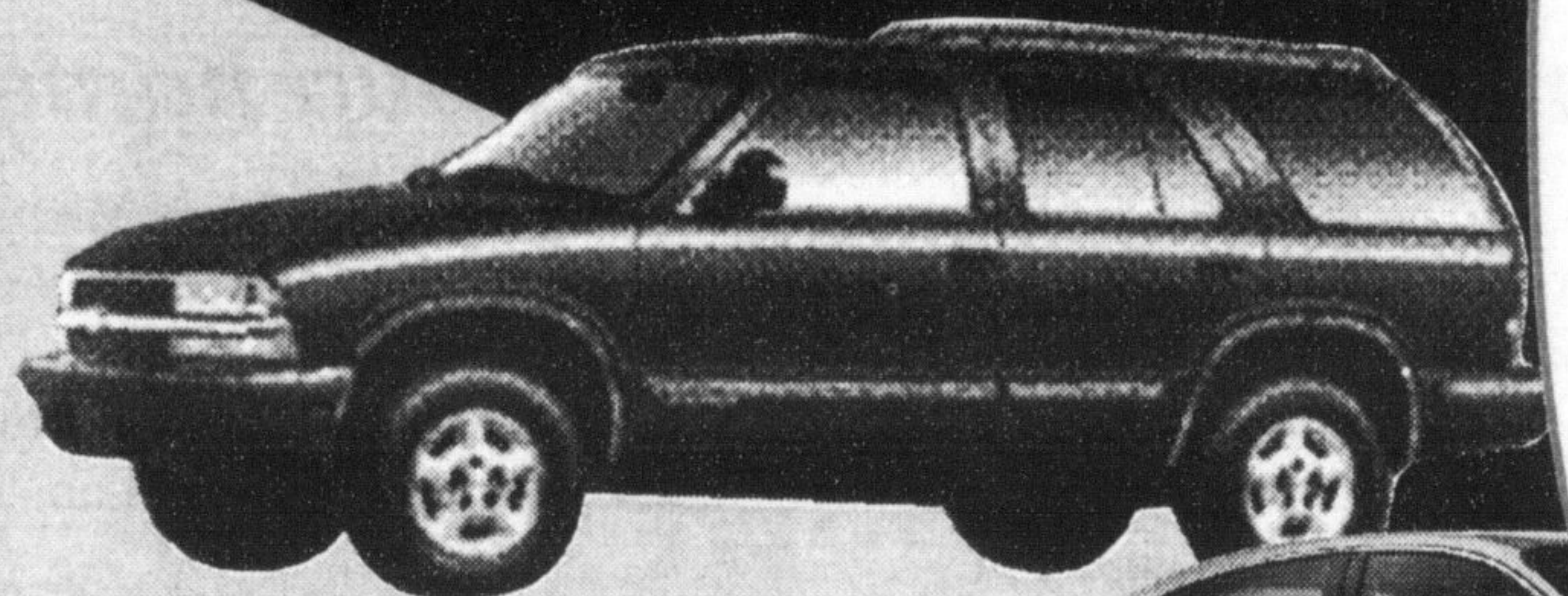
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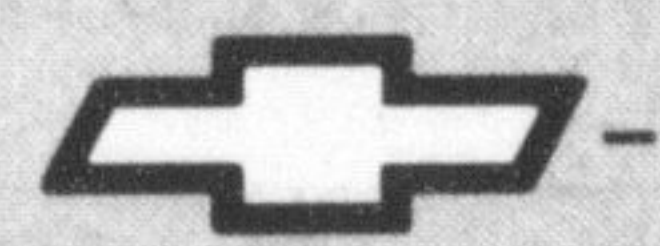
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