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# THE TRIBUNE

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# Chief retires; then charged

■ *Region's top cop quits the force, collects full pension, as he faces criminal breach of trust charges*

**KATHLEEN GRIFFIN**  
Staff Reporter

More than 11 months of allegations, speculation and investigation has finally led to criminal charges against former York Regional Police Chief Bryan Cousineau. Cousineau turned himself in to the Ontario Provincial Police on Thursday and was formally charged with five

counts of breach of trust relating to personal use of police equipment and resources, said OPP Det. Insp. Klancy Graman.

But before he did that he quit — a move that allows him to collect his full pension, estimated at about \$70,000, as well as five months' severance pay, unused vacation, statutory holidays and his sick-day bank.

Cousineau is accused of accepting a \$125,000 payment from Magna International in Dec. 1995 for future security services upon his expected retirement in 2002.

Counts two, three and four allege Cousineau of improper and fraudulent use of cellular phones, a calling card account and a personal computer, all between Jan. 1994 and March 1997.

The fifth breach of trust charge alleges the former chief used on-duty officers to install a hot tub at his Newmarket home.

Cousineau surrendered to the OPP in Aurora less than an



**BUSTED:** Former York police chief Bryan Cousineau surrendered to the OPP in Aurora Thursday afternoon where he was charged with breach of trust. He is accompanied by his lawyer Peter Shoniker.

Photo courtesy TORONTO SUN

hour after he tendered his official resignation to the York Regional Police Services Board.

"I decided that it is in the best interest of the community in general and the future of the York Regional Police Service in particular to retire effective immediately," he said in a statement.

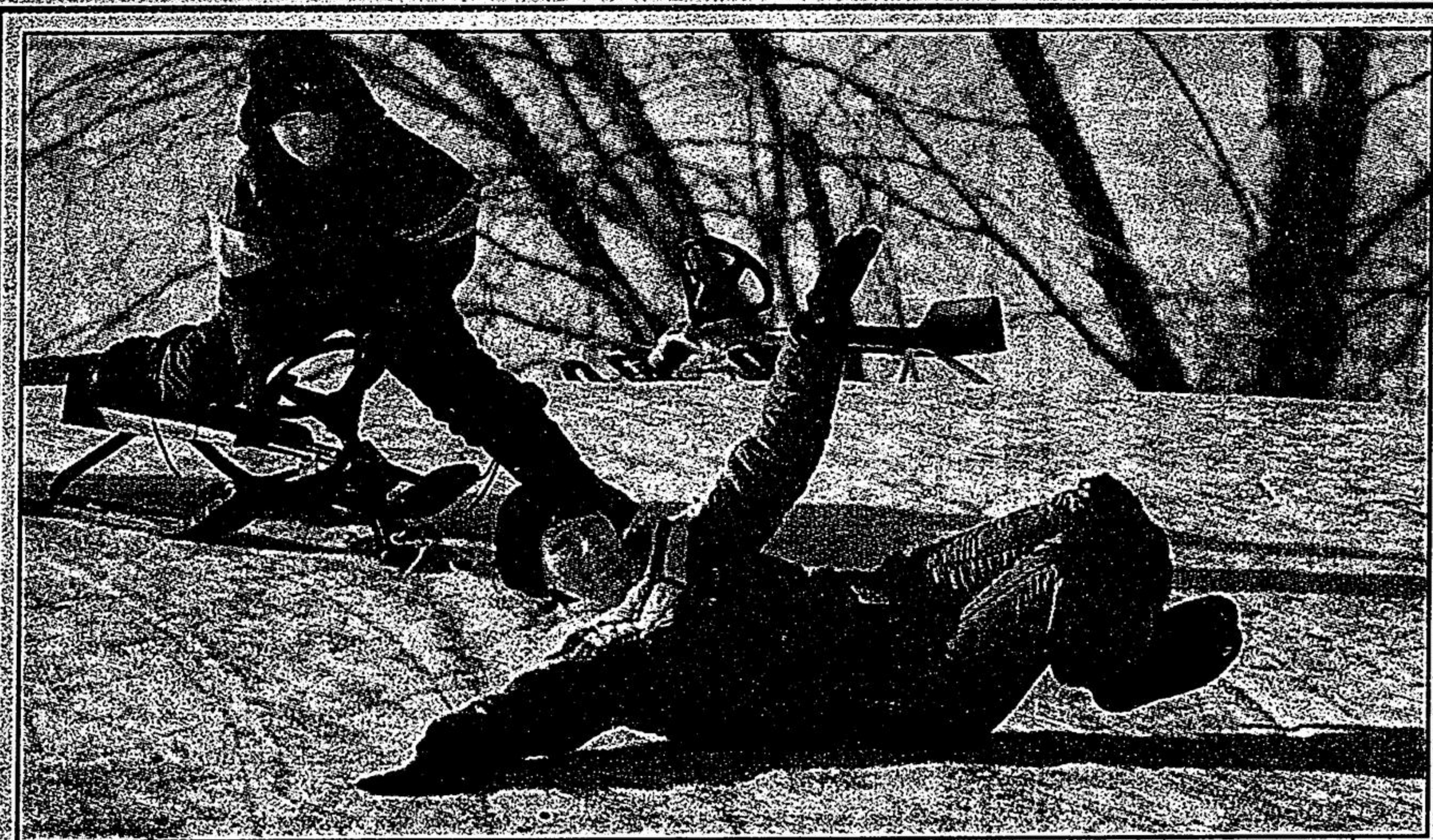
The board called the retirement package "standard benefits" which have traditionally been paid to retiring senior officers.

Board member and Regional Chair Bill Fisch said accepting Cousineau's resignation allows the board to move forward and hire a new chief.

"Whenever a member of the force tenders their resignation and it is accepted, they are entitled to all the benefits that have accrued to that person," he said. "It was the same package that is available to all senior officers."

When pressed, Fisch said firing the former chief was not an option for the board. Suspending an officer with pay is the only choice the board has until there's a finding of guilt.

■ Please see page 3 ■



**THE BUM'S RUSH:** Robin Steckley uses her bum to slide down the hill Thursday closely followed by Rync Parsons, 8, who decides to follow suit and gets off his slider on the hill at Rupert Avenue and West Lawn Crescent in Stouffville.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEN

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