

Comment & Opinions

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EDITORIAL

Chief broke trust

Amid a storm of controversy, former police chief Bryan Cousineau quietly resigned his position as the region's top cop then slipped into the OPP headquarters in Aurora on Thursday where he was charged with five breach of trust charges.

The charges relate to his alleged personal use of police resources - including allegedly accepting a \$125,000 payment for future services with Magna International and fraudulent incidents involving cellular phones and telephone credit cards.

While some may think these actions definitely merit criminal charges being laid as the police chief should be beyond repute, others may believe these are small indiscretions, hardly worth an 11-month investigation and such punitive actions.

But the time and money factors are what make the entire story a crime - against US.

York Region taxpayers have had to foot the bill to pay Cousineau while under investigation and the acting chief Peter Scott who was filling in for him.

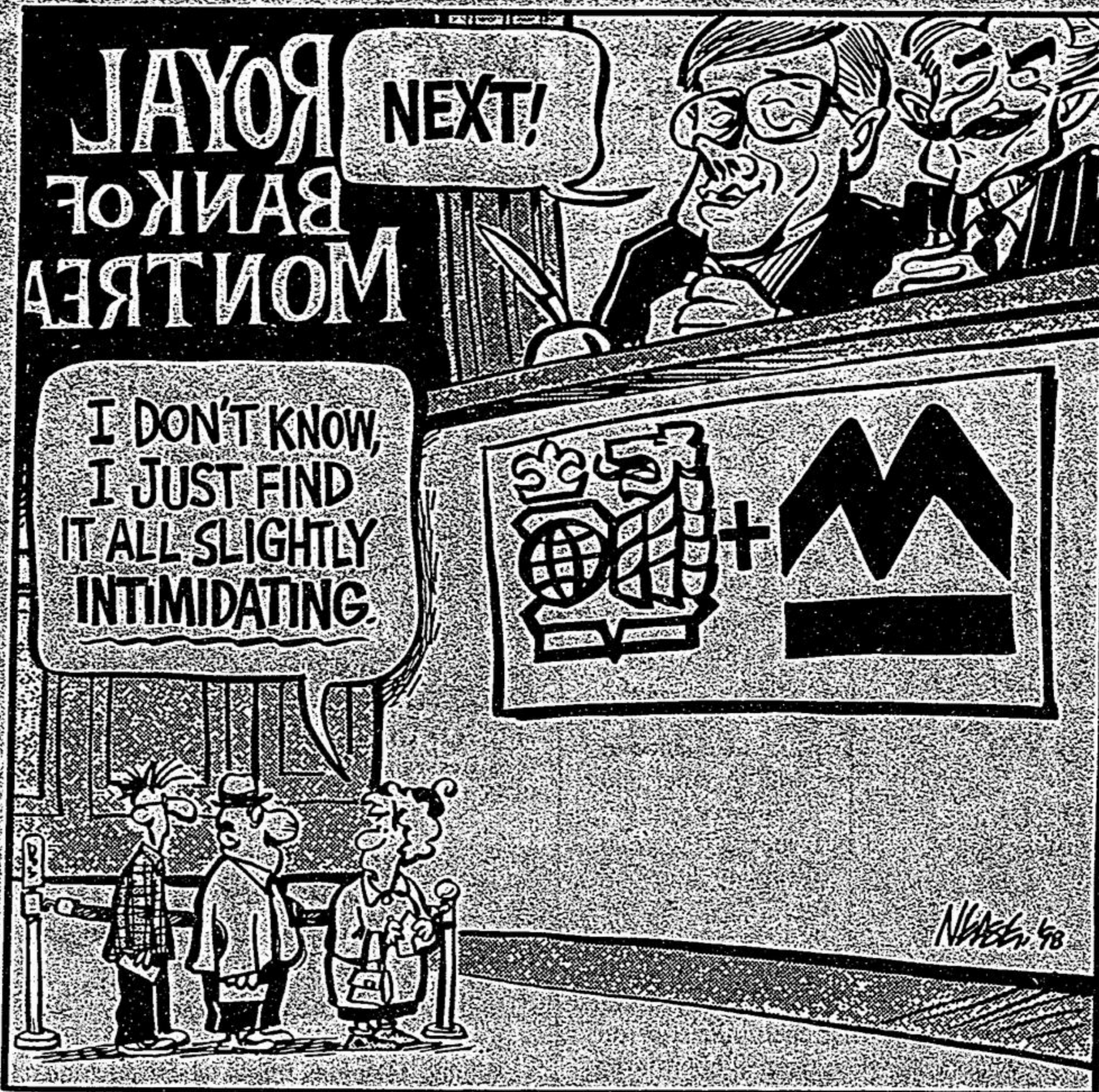
We've paid close to \$300,000 for TWO chiefs, and to make matters worse, some of our provincial tax money has been used to pay for this incredibly lengthy investigation.

Why did it take so long? Did investigators believe there were worse or additional wrong-doings committed by Cousineau? Was there some kind of deal?

Remember Cousineau retains all his retirement benefits, worth some \$70,000.

And how much has the York Regional Police force's credibility suffered in this year-long fiasco?

Cousineau may have committed some crimes - but the biggest crime is against the taxpayers of York Region.



Love is a four-letter word; lovely has six letters

April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire.

The Wasteland

T.S. Eliot wrote that, and for my money, T.S. Eliot was all wet. April isn't the cruelest month. The wettest month maybe, but not the cruelest.

That honour goes to the one-twelfth of the calendar Canucks are currently slogging through: February.

Now there's a cruel month for you. February: the Waiting-For-Godot Month. The As-Bad-As-It-Gets Month. The merry roisterings of Christmas and New Years are but a distant memory, a thousand shovels full of snow behind us. And what's



Basic Black

Arthur Black

to look forward to?

Spring.

Sometime.

Eventually. We hope.

Which is what makes St. Valentine's Day so important for our mental health.

St. Valentine's - February 14th - 24 hours of frivolity in a vast sea of slush and frost and frozen car batteries.

Herewith two tales of love, one

bitter, one sweet, to get you over the hump from Yule to Spring.

The grim one first. It concerns a sprightly, five-foot-two harbinger of love by the name of Tracey Lyn Sargent. I haven't met Tracey, but I have it on good authority that she is a 'stunning' blonde, elfin and captivating, more than capable of snatching the average man's heart and playing a brisk game of Ping-Pong with it.

She certainly did that last year with four Toronto businessmen, from each of whom the whimsical Ms. Sargent managed to extract tens of thousands of dollars.

These guys were all successful, savvy business men, looking for a little romantic action on the side.

They called up a Toronto Escort Service, were introduced to Tracey Lyn Sargent and got taken to the cleaners.

Well, they certainly had their bank accounts vacuum-cleaned courtesy of Tracey.

The men weren't dummies. One was a doctor, another was a crown attorney. The other two were self-made businessmen. Hard-nosed guys, one would think, and yet a petite blonde who weighed maybe ninety-eight pounds soaking wet, had these guys falling all over themselves in their rush to give her their money.

Tracey didn't use a gun. Or threats. Or blackmail. All she used was a pair of lethal baby-blues.

As one of the guys summed it up later, "Love is stupid."

Well, maybe. But there is the story of Bill Gottlieb. Bill wanted to propose to his sweetie, Emily, in the worst way. Actually, make that in the words way.

Emily is a crosswords puzzle

freak. She never misses *The New York Times* brainteaser. She does it even when she's with Bill at lunch. She was puzzling her way through the Jan. 7th edition over brunch with Bill at a restaurant.

The theme of the puzzle was A Modest Proposal.

But it was a weird puzzle, even by *New York Times* standards. For one thing, Emily found her name in one of the answers. Then she found Bill's first name in another.

Scooting down to 38 across, she read the clue: 1965 Gary Lewis and the Playboys Hit was the clue.

That was easy. Emily filled in 'This Diamond Ring'.

Then she got to the clue for 56 Across: It read: 1992 Paula Abdul hit. Well, Emily knew that had to be 'Will You Marry Me?'

Her name. Bill's name. A Modest Proposal. A wedding proposal. All these matrimonial clues.

Emily scrunched up her nose the way Bill loved as she looked across at him munching on a bagel. "Bill," she said, with a sense of bafflement, "this puzzle."

And Bill just took her hand - the one with the ball-point pen in it, looked at her and said "Will you marry me?"

That's when Emily realized that this guy had gone to the trouble of getting the Crosswords Puzzle editor of *The New York Times* to let him propose marriage to her - in a crossword puzzle.

Not surprisingly, her response was the same as the answer to 57 Down: a three-letter word indicating agreement.

Love is ... what's a six-letter word for love? 'Stupid' would fit, for sure. But so would 'lovely'.

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While we endeavor to print as many letters as possible, we regret that not all letters may be printed.

School councils will have positive impact

Dear Editor,

Re: "School councils cosy up to board" (Jan. 31, *Tribune*)

Your article implied that I feel that the work of school councils is pointless. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is my opinion that councils have a lot to offer, and that the work being done by a large number of dedicated parents, teachers, school administrators, non-teaching staff and community representatives has had, and will continue to have, a positive impact on our children's education.

The newly introduced area forums provide a necessary and

LETTERS

valuable vehicle to allow councils to share ideas with our board on how improvements can be made locally to our education system, as well as identify what the local issues are.

These forums will also provide councils with an opportunity to network and share experiences.

With our board facilitating and being regularly involved in a dialogue, councils can become even more effective.

Carol Wildgoose