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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Meet the 'Peanuts' gang

E.C. Drury High School packed the house this week during performances of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown". Among the cast were (clockwise from front) Natalie Dugale, Suzie Masters, Noah Hicks, Kathy Farrant, Eric Svilans and Katie Murzin.

Fate of Madeley in jury's hands

By **IRENE GENTLE**
Special to the Champion

A jury has gone into deliberation following almost eight weeks of often grueling testimony in a Milton murder trial.

After hearing the defence and Crown attorney's summations as well as a three-hour judge's address, the eight-man, three-woman jury retired Wednesday at 1 p.m. They will decide the fate of Keith Madeley, 25, accused in the shooting murder of Milton senior citizen Fred Sheppard.

Mr. Sheppard's bullet-torn body was found in the outhouse of his rural Steeles Avenue property in March, 1995.

Mr. Madeley is a former boyfriend of Mr. Sheppard's granddaughter Lori.

The accused acknowledged his mother Irene Madeley in the public gallery for one of the first times as he was led into the courtroom only hours before the jury retired.

The jury heard an hour-long summation by defence lawyer Chris Hicks Monday, in which Mr. Hicks suggested people other than the accused, namely Mr. Sheppard's daughter Susan and her husband Brian Gagnon, had motivation for the killing.

"There's motive in other people. Susan and Brian Gagnon are beneficiaries in Fred Sheppard's will. They thought the property was worth \$400 000," said Mr. Hicks.

Mr. Hicks also pointed out the existence of a second, unsigned will in which Mr. Sheppard left the bulk of his estate to his then girlfriend Pearl Johnston.

"Fred Sheppard has two wills. The first he signed shortly after the death of his wife and it leaves everything to Susan and her brother Tom Sheppard. The second will is unsigned but it leaves everything to Pearl Johnston," said Mr. Hicks. "Susan Gagnon says she went through Fred Sheppard's papers in the fall but she never saw that will, so easily found by the police?"

Mr. Hicks also downplayed the connection between several withdrawals from Mr. Sheppard's bank account on March 2-3 and his death, said to have occurred between March 1-7.

"The Crown's position is that someone was draining Fred Sheppard's account and that person was Keith Madeley, and because he was draining the account, Fred Sheppard got shot," said Mr. Hicks.

"Only Susan Gagnon's account was being drained too and Susan Gagnon was not shot."

Ms Gagnon had \$100 taken from her account around that time period.

In his two and a half hour address to the jury, Crown attorney Brian O'Marra attempted to debunk the conspiracy theory of the murder.

"The murder of Fred Sheppard was not a grand conspiracy. It was a work of a sin-

• see **MURDER** on page 2

NEWSLINES

Teen made up the story, cops saying

A 17-year-old youth faces charges for allegedly making up a robbery story and instead stealing the money himself.

Halton Regional Police say the Brookville Store was never held up on January 8, contrary to a robbery report from a clerk.

Acting Det. Sgt. Kim Duncan said \$418 was stolen from the store.

The youth, whose identity is protected under the Young Offenders Act, is charged with theft under \$5,000 and public mischief.

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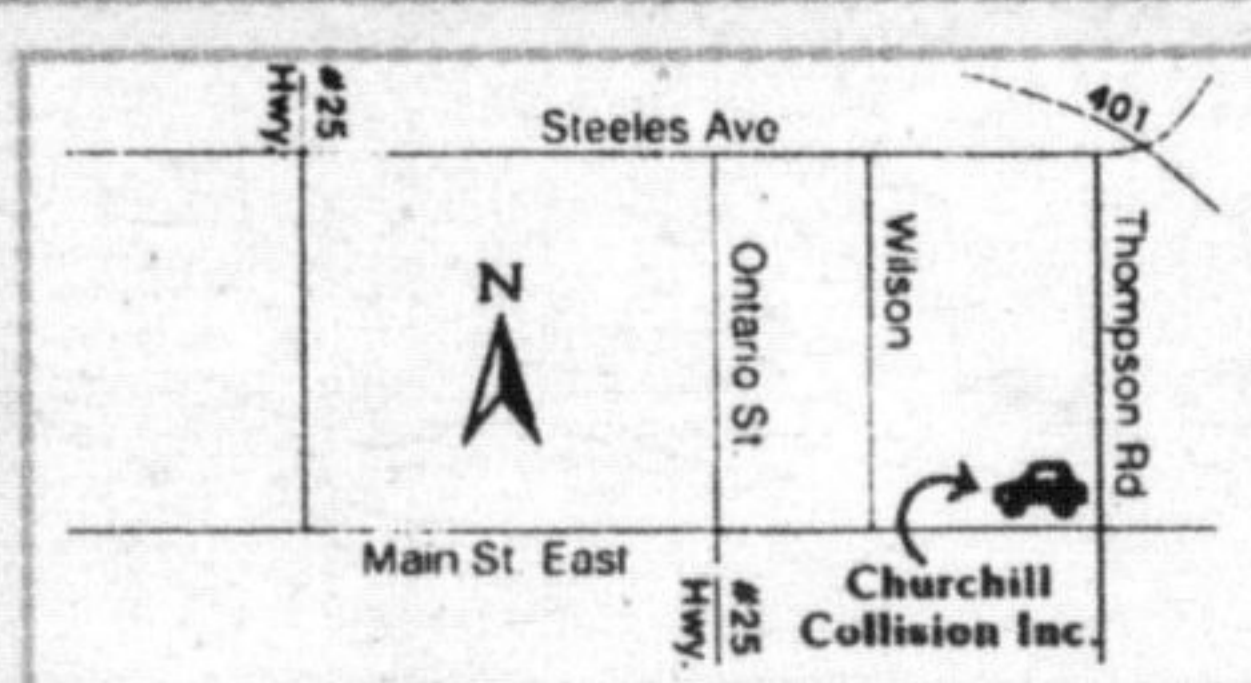


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