

**Murder trial continues**

# Buried body found in fetal position on Derry Rd. site

By LISA CARTWRIGHT  
The Champion

When the digging stopped on February 14, 1998, the body of Stephen Andreopoulos lay exposed on a pedestal of dirt in the fetal position with his hand tucked under his cheek.

And it was that discovery, as well as the removal of the body that kept OPP Constable David Vaughan answering questions from both Crown attorney Brian O'Marra and defense lawyer Robert Nuttall in Superior Court in Milton Thursday and Friday.

Former Milton resident David Fiorino, 27, of Brampton is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Mr. Andreopoulos, an alleged business associate of the accused in a contraband liquor deal.

Over the course of the two days, the jury viewed more than 200 photographs, looked at two maps detailing the Derry Road property where Mr. Andreopoulos' body was found, and watched a 30-minute video.

**Human remains found**

The jury heard that on February 13, 1998 at about 4 p.m., Constable Vaughan and his partner Sgt. Gary Savage received a call from officers saying they had found human remains.

When the officers arrived, they saw the sole of a shoe sticking out of the ground.

As night was falling, the police stopped the excavation. They put a foil blanket over the body, holding it down with rocks. A tarp was placed over the top of the hole.

Halton Regional Police officers guarded the site. On February 14, the excavation continued. The body was removed from the site using the bucket of a highhoe, which is similar to a backhoe. Throughout the removal process, photographs were taken.

Crown O'Marra showed those pictures, as well as several others, to the jury. He also presented them with two pieces of evidence contained in ziplock bags.

One was a note with the words 'Dave' and a phone number written on it.

Found in the victim's wallet, the number was for a pager that belonged to Mr. Fiorino, the jury was told.

The second piece of evidence was a note that was stuck on the front door of Huronia Furs, the Barrie business owned by Mr. Andreopoulos. The note said that the store would be closed July 2, 1996, and would reopen July 3.

Photographs were also taken of items removed from the site. They included twine, plastic binding, a small metal measuring tape and three pieces of a broken arrow.

**No injuries visible**

During Mr. Nuttall's cross examination of Constable Vaughan, he asked the officer whether there were any injuries such as cuts from a metal measuring tape or arrow wounds to the body of the victim. Constable Vaughan said there wasn't.

Mr. Nuttall also asked about the condition of the burial site.

He presented the jury with several pictures including one that showed garbage and debris inside the burial site. Several areas of the property looked like a garbage dump, he said to the officer. Constable Vaughan agreed that it did.

Court heard the victim's socks, jeans and t-shirt were sent to the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto.

A test was conducted to see whether there were any fibres in the clothing. This would determine if the victim was bound. A test was also done to see if there was any evidence of bleeding. Both tests came back negative.

The trial, expected to last three to four months, continued at press time yesterday after the jury selection wrapped up May 1.

A total of about 90 witnesses are expected to be called.

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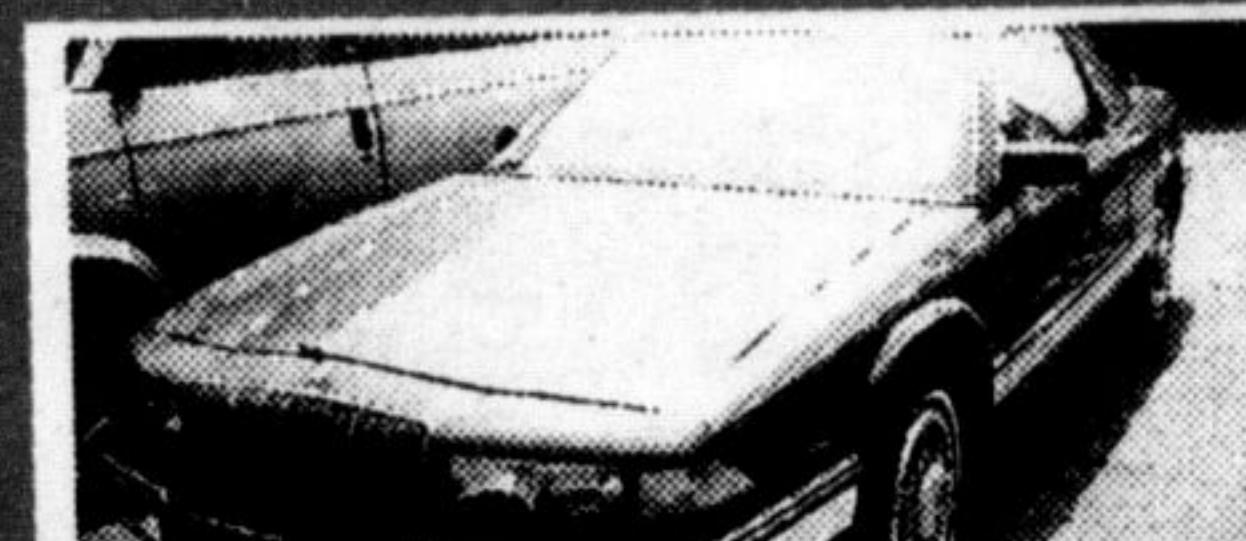
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