

# Partially dug-up body was left exposed overnight: trial

## First-degree murder trial continues before jury in Superior Court

By **LISA CARTWRIGHT**  
*The Champion*

Even though the OPP had a search warrant for a Derry Road property on February 6, 1998, investigators didn't start digging for the remains of Stephen Andreopoulos until seven days later, court heard Monday.

Mr. Andreopoulos, 36, was last seen alive on July 2, 1996 with former Milton resident David Fiorino.

Mr. Fiorino, 27, of Brampton is charged with his murder.

Each of the four police witnesses called by Crown Brian O'Marra as the trial continued in Superior Court in Milton showed the jury the careful planning police did before digging.

OPP Det. Staff Sgt. Kenneth McDonald told the court officers spent the days leading up to the digging marking the 14 potential burial sites and arranging all the details.

On the morning of February 13, officers pushed a stick through the ground and pulled it back up. This was done to allow the cadaver dogs

to sniff the area, said Constable Tom Doherty of Halton Regional Police.

When asked by defense lawyer Robert Nuttall, Constable Doherty said he didn't know whether it was done at site 10 — the place where the remains of Mr. Andreopoulos were found.

During the excavation of that site, the dogs started to get excited and the officers could smell something, Constable Doherty testified.

Looking down the hole, Det. Staff Sgt. McDonald said he saw a sole of a shoe.

### Jeans exposed

Peter Osborne, now a retired OPP officer, said he got into the hole and started digging until he exposed what he thought was the brass tab found on jeans.

By that time, it was getting dark and they stopped.

"We wanted to take the body out of the ground and we wanted to do it right," Det. Staff Sgt. McDonald said.

On February 18, Constable Doherty and another officer returned to the site and started sifting through the dirt that had covered Mr. Andreopoulos' body.

The officers found the strap for a

watch that belonged to the Barrie-area victim.

When asked by Mr. Nuttall, Constable Doherty didn't know whether the tarp was covered.

So the dirt was sitting on the tarp from February 13 to February 18, exposed to the elements, Mr. Nuttall commented.

During his cross examination, Mr. Nuttall asked the witnesses similar questions.

He asked the officers why they choose to leave the remains exposed overnight.

"In part of the careful consideration, did anybody think to bring heavy duty lights in case the body was found toward the end of the day," he asked Det. Staff Sgt. McDonald.

By thinking of lighting, the officers could have brought the body up the same night, avoiding potential exposure, he said.

"Would it have been better to continue once the body was exposed and continued without interruption?"

"Yes sir," Mr. Osborne responded.

The first-degree murder trial, expected to last three to four months, continued at press time yesterday today.

A total of 90 witnesses are expected to be called.

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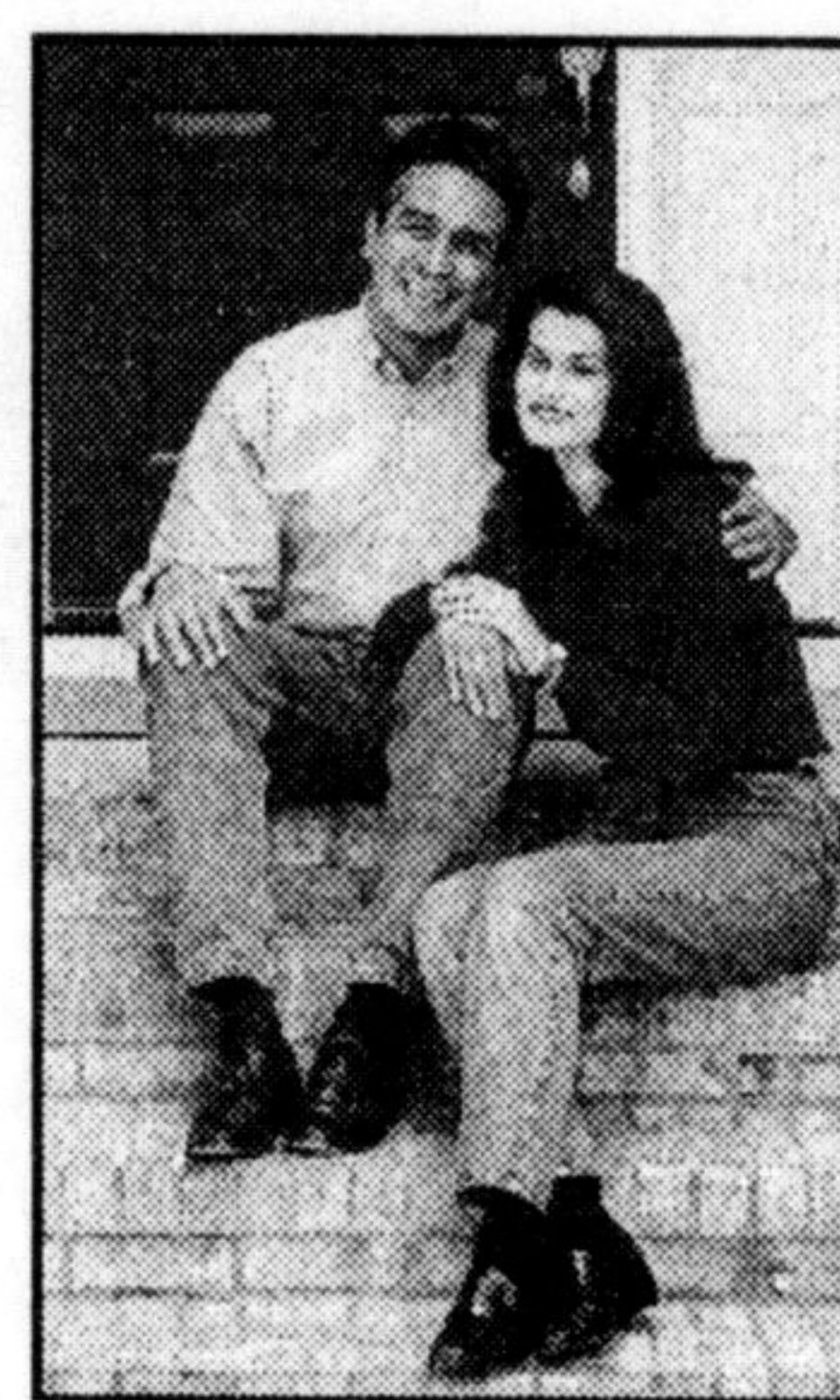
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- The Community Care Access Centre of Halton helps the elderly, people with disabilities and those who are seriously ill to stay in the comfort of their own homes for as long as possible.
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• The Community Care Access Centre of Halton will help to find a home for your loved one when living independently is no longer a safe option. We will provide you with information regarding nursing homes and help you with the application process when you are ready.

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• The Community Care Access Centre of Halton is easy to contact. You can call us 7 days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. by dialling (905) 639-5228 or, toll free at 1-800-810-0000. There is no cost to the client for direct services provided by the CCAC. Services are funded through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.



### CLIP AND SAVE

#### Special Event for Family and other Caregivers

Come and hear Karen Henderson, Caregiver Network Inc., talk about "Care for the Caregiver"

Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2000

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Auditorium,  
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To register for this informative session, please contact: Trina McLeod, Region of Halton at (905) 825-6000 or (519) 853-0501, ext. 7149.

**No charge for this event.**

#### Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, May 17, 2000  
William Osler Health Centre  
Georgetown Hospital Campus,  
Activity Room  
One Princess Anne Drive, Georgetown
- Wednesday, June 21, 2000  
CCAC of Halton,  
440 Elizabeth Street, 4th Floor, Burlington

For further information regarding Board meetings, please contact Linda Ferras at:

**(905) 639-5228, ext. 8921**

**or call toll free 1-800-810-0000**

How to contact us:

**Phone Numbers:**  
(905) 639-5228  
**or toll free:**  
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**440 Elizabeth St., 4th Floor, Burlington**  
**Visit our website:**  
[www.ccac-halton.on.ca](http://www.ccac-halton.on.ca)

**Telephone Inquiries: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily**  
**Office Hours (open to the public):**  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Monday - Friday)