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Police orchestrated fictitious hit: trial

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

If murder suspect David Fiorino wanted to keep a business relationship going, he had to be a part of everything that was suggested, the jury heard Friday during an ongoing first-degree murder trial in Superior Court in Milton.

"All I'm suggesting to you is very simple," said defense lawyer Robert Nuttall to undercover OPP

"Common sense says if he (Mr. Fiorino) wants to keep the relationship going, he's got to go along with you."

ROBERT NUTTALL

Det. Kenneth Watson.

"Common sense says if he (Mr. Fiorino) wants to keep the relationship going, he's got to go along with you."

In explaining what he meant, Mr. Nuttall told the jury that Mr. Fiorino had to do a fictitious hit so he could continue his relationship with his friend.

"Referring to common sense, I don't believe that's common sense," Det. Watson replied.

Mr. Fiorino, 27, is charged with the death of Stephen Andreopoulos, 36, of Barrie. Mr. Andreopoulos was last seen with the accused on July 2, 1996. His badly decomposed body was found buried on a Derry Road property 18 months later.

Mr. Nuttall spent Friday morning going passage-by-passage through an 80-page transcript that was played earlier in the trial.

The recording, intercepted by a probe in Det. Watson's vehicle, was captured on August 26, 1997, after a meeting between the accused, the detective and his purported boss Det. Bill Campbell.

The conversation included discussions about the liquor deal that happened July 2, 1996, and a fictitious hit.

But the conversation was scripted, Mr. Nuttall told the detective.

"Wittingly or unwittingly, it is you sir, because of the job you got on hand, you are orchestrating or creating the conversation."

Det. Watson told the jury his job was to obtain more evidence about the disappearance of Mr. Andreopoulos and to find where the body was.

Det. Campbell also took the stand Friday.

The detective had two dealings with the accused. During the first meeting, Det. Campbell told the jury he was unfriendly to the accused. During the introduction of the two, he walked right by Mr. Fiorino's outstretch hand, he said.

"I wanted to snub him," said Det. Campbell.

Mr. Fiorino was also searched when he entered the hotel room.

At the end of the conversation he told Det. Watson to tell the accused he wasn't impressed.

"I was never advised to do that," Det. Campbell said.

"I thought maybe he'd impress Kenny rather than impress me."

On Thursday, Mr. Nuttall told Det. Watson he was the direct link between the accused and senior investigators.

"Dealing with David Fiorino ... it was your eyes, your ears and your brain," he said.

Det. Watson agreed that it was.

"I mean no disrespect to you Constable Watson, but prior to this investigation, you had been on the force since 1995. Their eyes, their ears and their senses was with a police officer with nine months of experience."

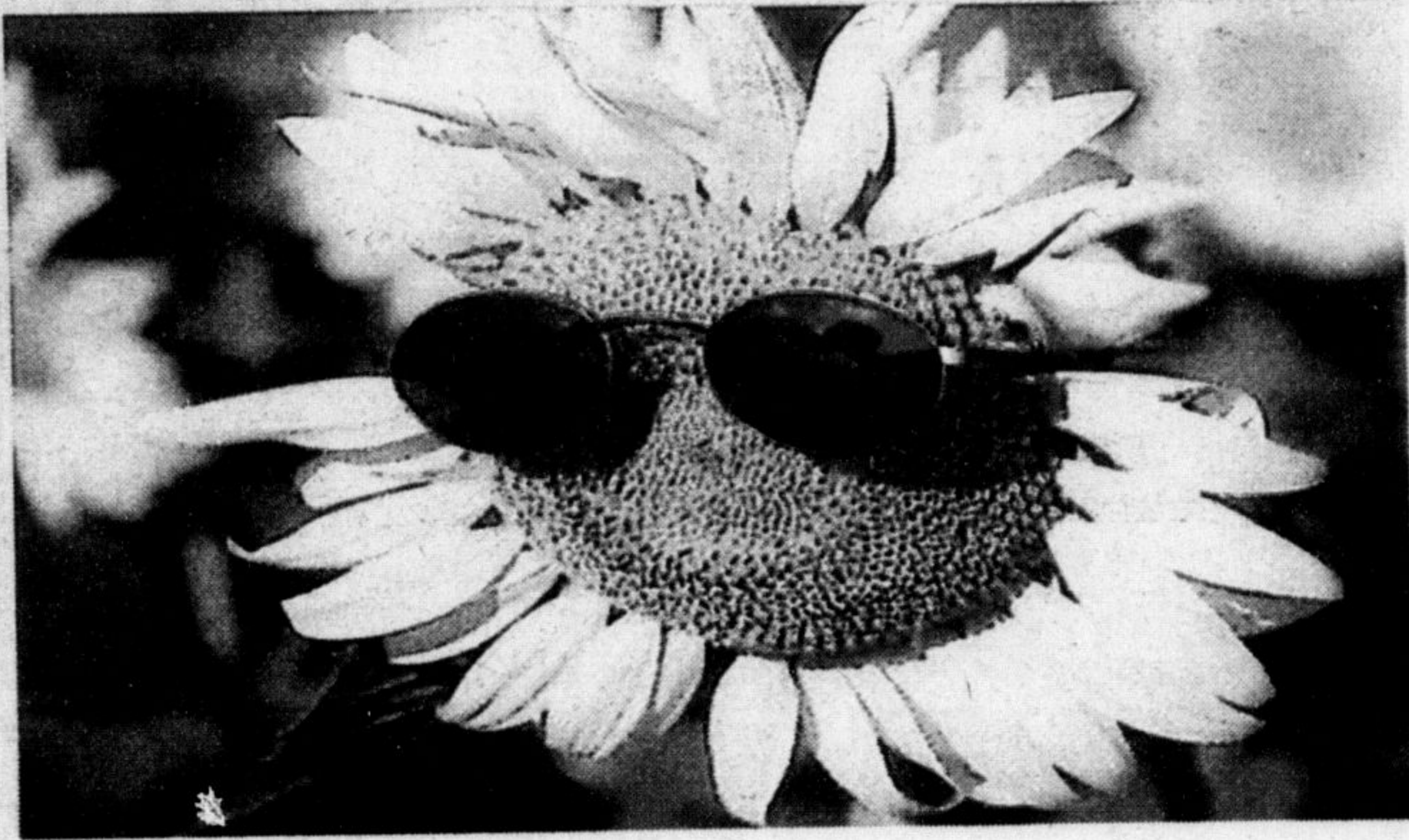
Det. Watson agreed.

The trial continues today.

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Police seize marijuana plants from Campbellville corn field

About 1,100 marijuana plants at various stages of maturity were seized from rural Milton Wednesday and Thursday by Halton Regional Police's Drugs and Morality Bureau.

The plants have an estimated street value of \$1 million.

The helicopter was used for the drug eradication project that targets marijuana growth in rural

areas of north Halton.

The largest seizure of marijuana was found in a corn field east of Guelph Line in north Campbellville.

About 600 plants were seized from that location. Another 500 smaller growths were seized in another area.

All the plants were spotted from the air, with ground units

being called in to remove the plants.

Sgt. Frank Phillips said the plants will be destroyed at an undisclosed location. No suspects were located and no charges were laid.

Police will continue the project with the goal of reducing the availability of marijuana and deterring people from growing it.



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