

Crown dissects murder suspect's testimony

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

Contrary to testimony given by David Fiorino, an assistant Crown attorney says evidence shows the murder suspect didn't know his new friend was an undercover OPP officer, a jury heard Tuesday.

In cross-examining Mr. Fiorino, Assistant Crown attorney Charon Kerr told the suspect there were a number of things he did that prove he didn't know Det. Kenneth Watson was an undercover cop.

The jury in the ongoing first-degree murder trial in Superior Court in Milton learned the former Milton resident met the officer at Grundy Lake Provincial Park on the August long weekend in 1997.

Mr. Fiorino has testified he knew the man was an undercover officer almost from the beginning, but continued to be with him in order to gain information about the investigation.

Mr. Fiorino, 28, is accused of murdering Stephen Andreopoulos, 36, of Barrie. Mr. Andreopoulos was last seen with the accused on July 2, 1996.

Mr. Fiorino testified he accidentally killed Mr. Andreopoulos while unloading trees from a trailer parked at a Derry Road property. Either the tree ball or backhoe bucket hit him on the chest, he said.

The OPP found his badly decomposed body on the property 18 months later.

Ms Kerr told the accused that when he spoke to people he knew were police officers he told lies. But when he spoke with

Det. Watson and his purported boss Det. Bill Campbell, he told them the truth.

"Mr. Fiorino do you agree when you spoke to (Inspector) Ron Gentle and (Det. Staff Sgt.) Mark Banzant you said you did not know who Stephen Andreopoulos was, you never met Stephen Andreopoulos, you were not at the Maple Auto Centre on July 2, 1996, you did not do any liquor deal and you do not know where Stephen Andreopoulos is?"

Mr. Fiorino agreed.

But when he spoke to Det. Watson he told him everything, including admitting that he killed the deceased. He also told the undercover officers he made his family lie for him.

"Do you agree that you wanted to put the police investigation away from you?" Ms Kerr asked. Mr. Fiorino agreed.

She then asked whether it made sense to tell Det. Watson and Det. Campbell that his family had been lying for him for months.

Mr. Fiorino asked why he would do that.

On Monday, the jury heard that Mr. Fiorino didn't have to come up with a plan to rip Mr. Andreopoulos off. One was already in place.

"Would you agree sir, as you said you were trying to come up with a way to separate Stephen from the money, this plan was already in place when you met at Pete's Donuts?" Ms Kerr asked.

Mr. Fiorino disagreed that a plan was already in place.

Ms Kerr said the contraband alcohol deal was hammered out in the meeting at the Maple Ontario donut shop in the weeks leading up to July 2.

The partners — Mr. Andreopoulos, Dominco Sacco and Jim Pearson — agreed that one of them would follow the accused in a separate vehicle to Cornwall. Once there, Mr. Fiorino would take the partners' \$50,000 and get the alcohol. He would then meet up with the person and

give them the booze.

Mr. Fiorino agreed that was the deal.

Ms Kerr then asked if the reason the accused went to the Derry Road property was to kill Mr. Andreopoulos and bury him there. Mr. Fiorino disagreed.

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