

# Fate of murder suspect now in hands of jurors

By LISA CARTWRIGHT  
The Champion

The fate of David Fiorino is now in the hands of 12 jurors.

After three full days, Justice John Bellegham finished his charge to the jury in the first-degree murder trial Wednesday at about 2:40 p.m.

During his charge, Justice Bellegham told the nine men and three women that they were the only ones who could decide what the truth was.

"You are the sole judges of fact, the judges of the law," he said.

The jury is now deliberating to decide if Mr. Fiorino, 28, formerly of Milton, is guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Stephen Andreopoulos, whose body was discovered buried in a Derry Road field.

Justice Bellegham told the jury that they had to leave their biases and prejudices behind. They were also not to base their decision on sympathy — either for Mr. Andreopoulos or Mr. Fiorino.

### Must arrive at unanimous decision

Instead they had to arrive at an unanimous decision about the guilt or innocence of the accused.

Justice Bellegham told the jury that it didn't matter how they reached the verdict as long as the decision was the same.

The judge reiterated what both defence lawyer Robert Nuttall and Crown Brian O'Marra told the jury — Mr. Fiorino was innocent until proven guilty. He told them it's the responsibility of the Crown to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the accused killed Mr. Andreopoulos. The defence has to prove nothing.

The jury was told they could find Mr. Fiorino not guilty or guilty of manslaughter, second-degree murder or first-degree murder.

First-degree murder applies if the jury finds he planned and deliberated the murder.

Justice Bellegham said if they weren't satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Fiorino caused Mr. Andreopoulos' death, then he must be found not guilty.

## 6 Things You Must Know BEFORE You Buy a Home

MILTON - A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and costly mistakes that homebuyers make before buying a home.

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Whether you are about to buy your first home, or are planning to make a move to your next home, it is critical that you inform yourself

about the factors involved before you buy.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "6 Things You Must Know Before You Buy".

Having the right information before hand can undoubtedly make a major difference in this critical negotiation. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-888-475-8645 and enter ID# 3000. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call now to find out what you need to know before you buy a home.

This report is courtesy of Chris Newell, Sales Rep. RE/MAX Blue Springs Realty (Halton) Corp. ADVERTORIAL

# Gevaert running for re-election

By IRENE GENTLE  
The Champion

Outstanding issues are behind Ward 3 Councillor Lieven Gevaert's bid for re-election.

Governance of Halton Region and the upcoming Milton development lured Mr. Gevaert to the table three years ago for his first term on council.

Those issues are still looming. "I know there's going to be significant changes in the way Halton will be governed in the next few years and I want to be part of that," he explained. "And we've started the expansion process now and I'd like to follow it through for a couple of years."

So he has tossed his hat in the ring for the November municipal election.

"I decided I'm going to put my name in and see what develops," he said.

But before doing so, Mr. Gevaert checked in with two higher authorities — his doctor and his wife.

Both gave Mr. Gevaert, who recently suffered a mild heart attack, a clean bill of health.

Now the 27-year rural resident is hoping to speak for agricultural interests on council.

But he won't delude people into thinking urban growth can be stopped.

"Some of the growth is being gently forced on us by the Province," said Mr.

Gevaert. "What we as councillors are able to do is say what is the best deal we can get for the present people in Milton so the amount of upset is minimized."

Listening to constituents is important to Mr. Gevaert, but he hasn't been able to do as much of it as he'd have liked to in



Lieven Gevaert

the past few years.

Instead, an extended business contract had him jetting between Milton and Israel, putting a lot of miles between himself and council issues.

But that contract has run its course, and health concerns are likely to keep him grounded. "You ain't going to go flying off all over the place," said Mr. Gevaert, who is an engineer and business consultant. "It would be foolish if the same thing happened again."

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