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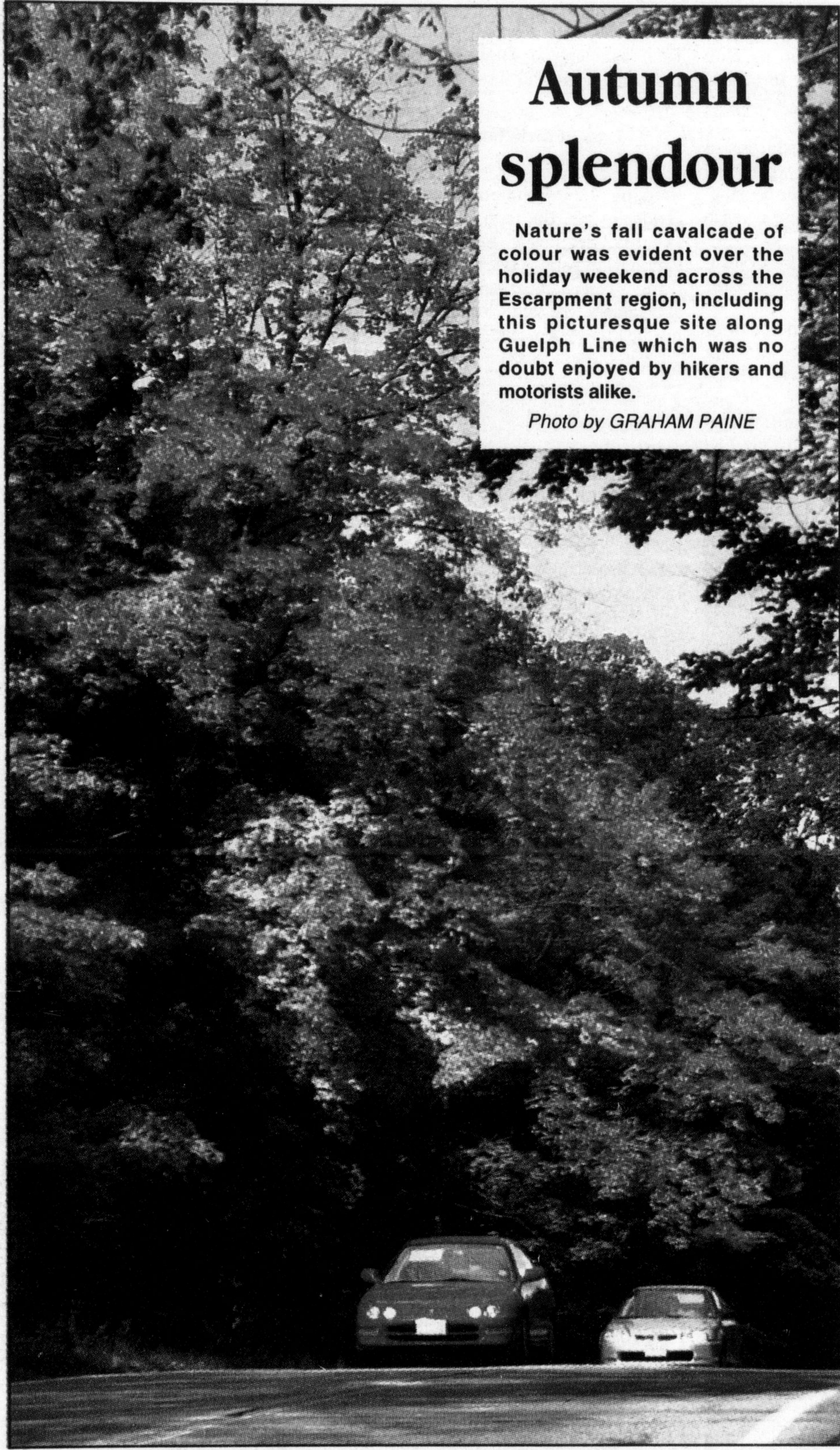
32 Pages

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Autumn splendour

Nature's fall cavalcade of colour was evident over the holiday weekend across the Escarpment region, including this picturesque site along Guelph Line which was no doubt enjoyed by hikers and motorists alike.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



Murder trial ends with guilty verdict

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

David Fiorino will spend nearly as much time in prison as he's been alive.

This following a first-degree murder verdict for the former local resident which was delivered Saturday afternoon at Superior Court in Milton after almost 24 hours of deliberations.

With defence lawyer Robert Nuttall at his side, Mr. Fiorino, 28, showed little emotion as the jury's foreperson read the verdict — which carries a mandatory life sentence of 25 years with no chance of parole.

Mr. Fiorino was found guilty in the July 2, 1996 killing of 36-year-old Barrie native Stephen Andreopoulos, whose body was discovered buried in a Derry Road field 18 months later.

The two had been partners in a contraband liquor deal.

The silence of the courtroom was broken by the sounds of crying by both Mr. Fiorino's family and the family of the deceased.

Justice John Bellegham asked Mr. Nuttall if he wanted the jurors to be polled.

Polling ensures each person agrees with the ruling read by the foreperson, Justice Bellegham explained.

As the court registrar read each juror's name, he or she stood up and said whether he agreed or disagreed with the verdict. Each of the 12 people said they agreed.

Justice Bellegham thanked the jury for their service during the lengthy trial and reminded them not to discuss their deliberations with anyone.

They were then invited to join the body of the court to listen to the sentencing.

Justice Bellegham asked Crown Brian O'Marra and Mr. Nuttall if they had any submissions to make.

Crown O'Marra asked for a DNA sample to be collected and kept on record. Mr. Nuttall agreed.

Just before reading the sentence, Justice Bellegham asked Mr. Fiorino if he had anything he wished to say.

Mr. Fiorino quietly responded that he did not.

Saturday's proceedings brought an end to the murder trial that lasted almost six months and included more than 90 witnesses.

Peeping tom apprehended

A resident of a Commercial Street townhouse complex apprehended a man who was seen looking into a home in the area last Friday.

The citizen held the man until Halton Regional Police arrived.

Earlier this month police had received a number of complaints about a suspicious male peering into the windows of young females residing at 551 Commercial St., said Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon. In one case, a woman awoke to see someone's hand coming through the window screen. The suspect fled when the woman screamed.

Police were called to the complex at 1:40 a.m. last Friday. The man was initially released by police, but upon further investigation he was summoned and charged with trespass at night.

A 20-year-old Conway Court man will appear in Milton court November 6.

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