

# Murder suspect ordered to trial

A Mississauga man charged in last summer's slaying of Murray Parrott will go to trial for first-degree murder.

Justice R. LeDressay ordered Douglas Stokes, 20, to stand trial following a preliminary hearing that wrapped up Monday in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Burlington.

A publication ban prevents The Champion from reporting details of the hearing, which was held to determine if enough evidence existed in the case to go to trial.

Mr. Parrott's wife Pat sat silently throughout the three-day hearing and hugged several supporters after the judge made his ruling.

The body of Mr. Parrott, 53, of Milton was found near the train tracks, just north of Millside Drive, August 31.

Mr. Stokes was arrested and charged with the murder in St. Catharines September 5.

He remains in custody.

A trial date will be set July 2 in Superior Court in Milton.

# Champion gets nominated for national awards

The Canadian Champion has been nominated for two awards in the Canadian Community Newspapers Association (CCNA) 2002 Better Newspapers Competition.

The Champion is a finalist for Best All-Round Newspaper and Best Front Page in its circulation category of up to 24,999.


"The nomination is a direct reflection of the hard work of all staff from the newsroom to the advertising, production and distribution departments and front office," said Champion editor Karen Smith.

Also nominated for Best All-Round Newspaper is the Bridgewater Bulletin in Nova Scotia and the Spruce Grove Examiner in Alberta.

For Best Front Page, The Champion is up against the Bridgewater Bulletin in Nova Scotia and the Stouffville Tribune in Ontario.

The first, second and third-place winners will be announced July 4 during an awards presentation in Halifax.

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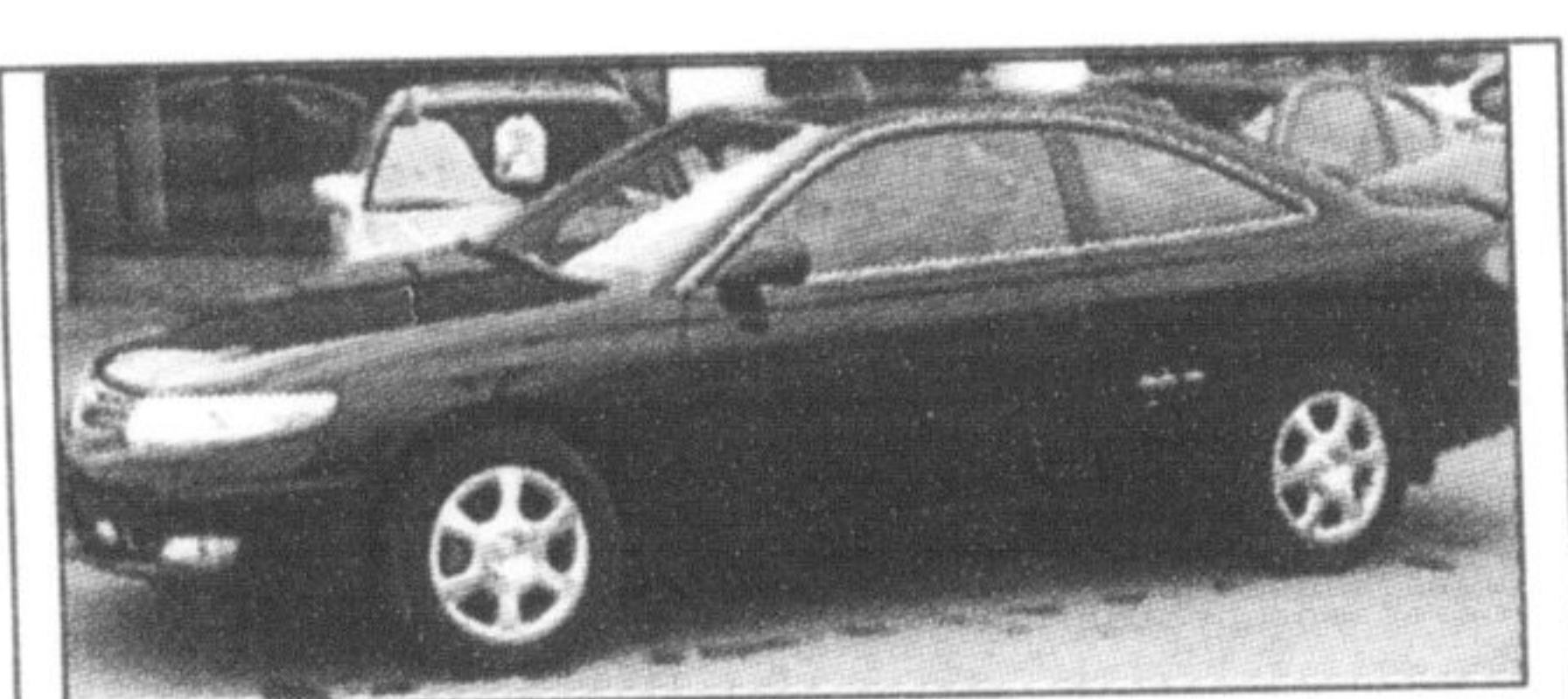
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Draw date: July 2. Winner will be notified by phone, same day.

Congratulations to Gail Buckley of Milton, May's winner of "Mama Bear & Lil' Lucas"

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