Accessory in Manchisi murder could be set free

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

A teen convicted of helping a murderer dispose of a pair of bodies - including that of a Milton man — two years ago could be set free after serving just two months in a youth facility.

lawyer, Charlie Waite, argued for Friday at the Osgoode Hall Ontario Court of Appeal, saying his 16year-old client should never have been sentenced to custody. Mr. Waite told court the boy's crime which also included lying to police for months about the murders wasn't one of the "exceptional" cases for which the Youth Criminal Justice Act reserves custodial sentences.

added Justice Minoo Khoorshed failed to "properly enunciate" his reasons for his sentence of six months in custody, which he delivered two months ago after convicting the teen of two counts of accessory after the fact to murder. The teen had pleaded 'not guilty.'

judges Marc Rosenberg, Stephen took his revenge by murdering Goudge and Janet Simmons. This them. The two young men disapcomes two months into the teen's six-month sentence, with the first four to be served in a youth facility and the last two in a halfway house.

Mr. Waite said the Orangeville teen - who can't be identified

under the Youth Criminal Justice Act - showed remorse for his actions and empathy for the families of the two murdered men, Miltonian Giuseppe — Joseph — Manchisi, 20, and Mississauga's Robert Grewal, 22. The teen had no part to play in the murders and At least that's what the teen's only found out about them when he Criminal Justice Act and worthy of was asked to help dispose of the bodies, Mr. Waite said.

The youth's risk to re-offend violently is low, court heard, and with the exception of occasional drug use, he obeyed the conditions of his 18-month house arrest while the trial was underway.

But none of these factors changed the thoughts of Joseph Manchisi, father of the slain Milton man, and he's desperately hoping the judges won't be swayed either.

"I think this is wasting public money and time for no reason," Mr. Manchisi said of the appeal.

He added the killings would never have happened if the teen hadn't stolen drugs and money in the first place from Douglas Moore, who mistakenly blamed The appeal took place before Mr. Manchisi and Mr. Grewal and peared from their homes in November 2003. Their remains were later found in several locations in the Montreal area.

> Mr. Moore, 36, killed himself at Maplehurst Correctional Centre

April 2 before he could be charged with the murders.

Crown attorney Feroza Bhabha said the teen's role in helping get rid of the bodies and not telling authorities until months later allows the case to be considered "exceptional" under the Youth

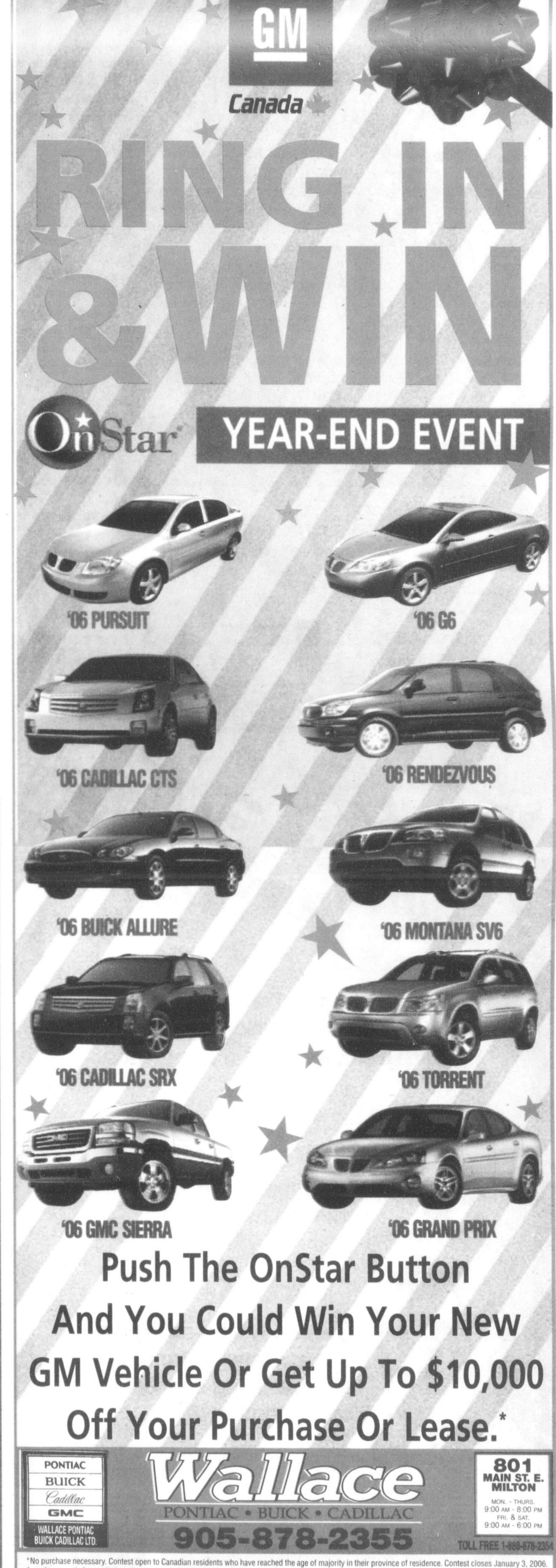
Although the boy was under Mr. Moore's influence to some degree, he took some of the initiative for what ensued, such as when he disposed of the blade used to cut up the bodies, Ms Bhabha said.

Not going to the police after the murders and then lying about the role he played showed "callous disregard for the deceased and their families," she said.

He even went on a spending spree with the money he stole from Mr. Moore, she said.

While it's true the teen had no official previous record, Ms Bhabha reminded court of the theft of drugs and money that set off the chain of events and also that the teen admitted to selling drugs to his friends. Although the teen has shown some remorse, "It appears he still hasn't taken responsibility" for his actions, she concluded.

The judges' decision is expected to be rendered sometime this week. Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



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