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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

IN FULL BLOOM: Monica Broszczak of The Home Depot's garden centre waters some mums while surrounded by colourful begonias and miniature roses. Spring only officially arrived yesterday, yet many stores have already packed away their winter wares — from a winter that never really was — and replaced them with lawn and garden supplies.

Murder victim's family outraged by sentences

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Curses and jeers followed defence lawyer John Rosen as he left a Milton courtroom Friday afternoon, reflecting bitter feelings after a judge delivered sentences in the murder of Brian Stockton.

"Rosen, you're scum," one man yelled out.

Minutes earlier, in Superior Court of Justice, Judge Bruce Durno had sentenced Mississauga's John McClatchey, 49, to six years in prison after he pleaded guilty to manslaughter last month in the death of Stockton, a father of two.

A sentence of life in prison was automatic after Halton Hills resident Michael McDonough, 41, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, and Justice Durno determined he would have no chance of parole for 14 years from the day of his arrest — 10 years is automatic, and the judge can decide to increase that time.

Family members expressed anger and disappointment at the sentences outside the courtroom.

Jim Kelly, uncle of Brian Stockton, said he didn't think justice was served. Twenty-five years without parole would've been more fitting for McDonough, he said.

"And the other guy got a slap on the wrist. He could've prevented the whole thing," Kelly said.

He was referring to the fact Stockton received no help from McClatchey after having been stabbed by McDonough. Instead, he agreed to help with the cover-up.

"It's another travesty," said an angry Jim Stockton, Brian's brother, of the sentence. "It's typical across the country."

He added he thinks McDonough will be back out on the streets sooner rather than later.

Stockton's charred body was discov-

ered when crews from the Milton Fire Department extinguished a flaming car just after midnight June 17, 2004 behind Traffix transport company on Regional Road 25, north of Hwy. 401.

Reading a statement of facts, Justice Durno said McDonough, McClatchey and Stockton were friends who met up June 16 at McKeown Collision, where McDonough and McClatchey worked. At 4 p.m., the trio began drinking beer and vodka in the garage, the court heard.

By 7:30 p.m., the men had moved to the legion hall on Charles Street to continue their drinking.

They then took two vehicles — McClatchey's and Stockton's — to the Fourth Line residence where McClatchey and McDonough rented rooms, and more alcohol was consumed, the court heard.

At about 10 p.m., the men left in
• see MAN on page A2

Inside Today's Champion

OPINION	A6
CHAMPION COUNTRY	A11
DATELINE	A13
HEALTHY LIVING	A14
CLASSIFIED	A21

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