

# Sentencing submissions to be heard next month

• from TREE on page A2 would be too narrow. And he said there was no doubt in his mind that the property in question is designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area and is a woodlot.

In the last days of the trial, Crocker had argued that searches done on Vastis's property were unconstitutional under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, because he didn't receive any prior notice.

Evidence collected during those visits should be thrown out, he told the court.

But Woloschuk found the visits on the property weren't a breach of the Charter. And since Vastis didn't live on the property, there was a "limited expectation of privacy" anyway, he said.

The Region's tree conservation bylaw states a landowner can cut trees in a woodlot for his own use — such as for firewood. Earlier in the trial,

Crocker argued Vastis was using the trees to make into mulch.

But Woloschuk, referring to a photo of a truck carrying a load of logs off the property, said all those logs couldn't be for firewood or mulch.

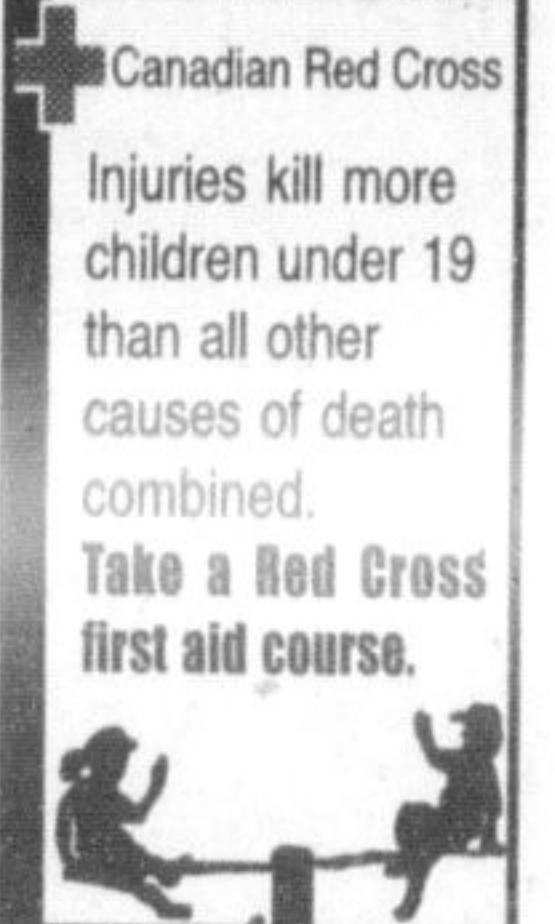
Vastis didn't take the steps necessary to find out if he was permitted to cut the trees, something the justice of the peace said he knows to do considering his experience developing properties. "No reasonable person

would destroy all these trees without finding out if he can. He did not."

Sentencing submissions will

be heard May 18.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).



# Police seek information from public

• from CEMETERY on page A1 ing fence that could be locked at night. But Strain said family members like to visit at all hours and he wouldn't want to stop them. "You sometimes feel the need to go over there and if the feeling hits, you go, it doesn't

matter what time it is."

Lights might help, but are too expensive to install and maintain, Strain said, as are security cameras.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Halton Regional Police at

(905) 825-4777 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). High school students with information can speak to their high school liaison officer.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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