

Prosecutor opposes early release

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served, reducing penitentiary time. In extraordinary circumstances, that credit can be increased.

Prosecutor Michelle Rundle has told Superior Court Justice David Stinson she will oppose even the standard two-for-one credit.

Friday, Mr. Hicks called corrections workers to testify about conditions at Metro West during Mr. Farouk's incarceration from July 2001 until May 2003.

Security manager Michael Richard told the sentencing hearing crowding is a fact of life at the jail.

"If the (inmate) counts got high enough and we had to put a third per-

son in a cell, we'd put a third person in a cell," he said. "It was not uncommon."

The 14-foot by nine-foot cells have two bunk beds, a toilet and sink and a writing table, Mr. Richard told the court. The third inmate would be given a mattress on the floor.

Court heard during his time in custody, Mr. Farouk spent several months in a protective custody range until May 2003, when he was assaulted by five inmates.

He was then transferred to a segregation cell, where he spent 24 hours a day, Mr. Richard said.

Mr. Farouk was transferred to another jail last May.

Mr. Richard also testified programs,

visits and time out of cells were limited during the eight-week public service strike in the spring of 2002 and again in the spring of 2003, when SARS affected operations.

Mr. Farouk, 22, was arrested the day after the July 8, 2001 abduction and rape.

He is to go to court on charges of sexual assault and threatening in Peel Region in March.

Mr. Farouk was free on bail in connection with those charges when the Markham assault occurred, court heard.

Despite the evidence entered against him at trial, Mr. Farouk continues to maintain his innocence, court has heard.

The sentencing hearing continues.

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