Former minister convicted, area men face trials

A retired Mono Mills minister, Rev. William Major, has been sentenced to two years less a day in provincial jail on sexual assault charges involving an adult female parishioner over almost five years, beginning in 1996.

His was only one of four instances in which area residents have been facing serious criminal charges.

The Major trial was held in Toronto before Superior Court Justice Elizabeth Stewart. In finding Mr. Major guilty, the judge rejected a defence of consensual sex, at least partly because of the minister's position of trust or authority as a counsellor to the woman.

In their sentencing submissions, prosecutor Joanne Capozzi sought a five-year penitentiary term and defence lawyer Linda Lamb argued for a conditional one served in the community. Because of the significant difference between the Crown and defence positions, an appeal is considered likely.

Ms. Capozzi said in a phone interview Tuesday the sentence is under review, and it was too early to say whether there would be an appeal. Ms. Lamb said Tuesday she had yet to receive instructions from her client.

Meanwhile, another area resident has been committed for trial in Superior Court in Newmarket on charges that he fraudulently obtained two mortgages totalling $455,000 on properties in Montague Township in the Smiths Falls area.

Police allege that Norman Webb, 62, of Orangeville, obtained the funds from a Newmarket lender based on false documentation that two houses were under construction when, in fact, no construction had commenced.

The funds were being advanced as construction progressed. The complainants allege that no construction was ever undertaken. No trial date has been set.

Another Orangeville man, Gary Moulton, is currently serving an 18-month conditional sentence on a single charge of defrauding his employer. He initially faced five charges involving allegations amounting to something in the order of $500,000, but four were withdrawn last October when sentence was imposed for one charge only.

And former Orangeville resident Wayne Powney, 64, is to appear at Owen Sound next Monday, June 8, for a preliminary hearing of a murder charge stemming from the slaying of a neighbour, Dr. Henry Janssen, 57, in January 2008.

Mr. Powney, husband of retired Mono Amaranth Public School teacher Elaine Powney, was granted bail by a Superior Court judge shortly after he was arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

The Powneys had moved from Orangeville to their present waterfront home near Lions Head when Mrs. Powney retired in 1999.

Dr. Janssen and his wife Lynn moved to the same street as the Powneys in about 2003.

He continued his medical practice at a clinic in Tobermory and had been on duty at the Lions Head hospital on the night of his death.

Reports at the time said Dr. Janssen had not returned home as scheduled on the fateful night. When the hospital called his home asking that he return, Lynn went in search and found him slumped over the steering wheel of his pickup truck on the remote Scenic Caves Road.

Mr. Powney was a former employee of Nortel and a local sports enthusiast.

Locally, Kenneth Docherty is to appear in assignment court June 15 to set a date for his Superior Court trial on a charge of first-degree murder.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For information on how to include your community event in this calendar, please call 519-941-2230

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Has your life been affected by someone else's drinking? If so, Al-Anon or Alateen is for you! Meetings are Mondays at 8pm in room 11 and Wednesday at 10am in room 5 at Westminster United Church at 247 Broadway, Orangeville and Thursday at 7:45pm at Christ Church Anglican, 99 Queen St., Tottenham. For more info call 416-410-3809 or 1-888-425-2666 or http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca

Orangeville Mayors' Youth Advisory Committee – Monthly Committee Meeting – Come Learn About Youth in Orangeville. The Committee is looking for new youth and adult members. 519-941-0440 www.town.orangeville.on.ca info@orangeville.ca

June 5 Drop into the Orangeville Public Library on Mill St. to enjoy some very talented musicians 7 to 9 pm. The Friends of the Library look forward to welcoming you.

June 8 Dufferin Parent Support Network, Annual General Meeting 7 pm, Dufferin Child & Family Services. 655 Riddell Rd. Guest Speaker, Lisa Needham, Public Health Dietitian. A journey that will help you learn to eat healthy, be active, and feel good. 519-940-8678 Registration requested info@dpsn.ca

June 9 Shelburne Christian Womens Club presents Roast Beef Dinner 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Tickets $15 ea. Allen Baldwin "Soar with Eagles" dreamy music by Quartet Plus One. Speaker Roger Bassett "Search for a Dream House". Call Brenda 519-924-2297, Christine 519-925-0742, Jane 519-938-8838 or Judy 519-941-2591 for tickets and more info.

June 13 Westminster United Church presents Progressive Garden Tea Party, 1 pm. Tour of 5 gardens, refreshments, advice and cuttings. Tickets $15 by calling 519-941-0381.

June 13 Century Church Theatre, Hillsburgh. Gordie Tapp live in "A Night in the Country" with the Muir Family Band and Jennifer Mitchell and Friends. Box office 519-855-4586.

Photo/WES KELLER

SOMETHING TO ROAR ABOUT: Orangeville Lions Dave Ferrier and Frank Gray Sr. pose with Kim Brooks, left, and Tina Thorpe of Orangeville Hydro and the company's solar water heater, and urge everyone to reserve Sept. 19 and 20 for the 5th annual Energy & Eco Expo at the Fairgrounds. Display booths are already being booked. Green energy is likely to be at the forefront, including a hybrid car, but some of us might even learn how to control dandelions without breaking our backs or using pesticides. Contact Roy Bryan at Bryans Fuel by phone or e-mail *roy@briansfuel.on.ca*

Christian School cuts tuition fees one-third

Orangeville Christian School (OCS) has announced that tuition fees for the 2009-10 school year have been reduced by one third.

In announcing the move, the private, faith-based school on Veterans Way said it had been accomplished "while still maintaining the quality and integrity of the product that the school has now offered for 30 years."

"It is being done first because we have the room to grow, and secondly we feel that in these tough times it is more important than ever for families and children to have the support of the community and education that Orangeville Christian School offers." said Paul Marcus, the school's principal and chief operating officer.

"Over the years, we have had families that were finding it difficult in the public system transfer to OCS and their students flourish.

"This happens because of the smaller class sizes and the amount of individual student time that the staff is willing and able to spend. We felt that with everything else that families have to worry about in today's economy, struggles in school should not be one of them".

The school operates out of a six-year-old building at the intersection of Veterans Way and 5 Sideroad in Mono. Busing is provided at no charge to families anywhere in Dufferin County and parts of Caledon. Care before and after school is also available.

For more information, or to discuss this in more detail, call Mr. Marcus at 519-941-3381.

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COMMUNITY LIVING Dufferin

Supporting People With Disabilities

Hi, I'm Rhonda Nix

I am married and I have two fantastic little boys. First of all I wanted to be a vet and then a nurse but when I met my best friend's uncle who has Downs Syndrome, I became smitten with people who have developmental disabilities. I am in my thirteenth year at CLD. There is so much I like about my job. When somebody I support accomplishes something and they realize their goal that makes me feel emotional. I am so proud for them. Recently we went to a celebration for people who have come out of the institutions. We took Jimmy who came to live in our group home after coming out of an institution that is now closed. People who knew Jimmy before were surprised to see the change in him. Before you couldn't stand or sit beside him. He would push us away. Now we can sit beside him and enjoy watching "Dancing with the Stars" (his favourite show) with him. He has a better quality of life now. He smiles a lot more now. It made me stop and think what acceptance, love and compassion can do for someone. My biggest challenge has been getting the people we support the respect that they deserve. But now that is something they are given. I think it has a lot to do with CLD's new Rights Committee, Advisory Committee and the move CLD has taken towards achieving accreditation. Also another challenge, the toughest part of my job right now, is really learning to bite my tongue and keep my professional hat on when I am out in the community because sometimes the people we support experience discrimination. When I think of CLD, I think of freedom because people can express who they really are and not be ashamed of whom they really are. I just want people to not let their fear and ignorance of people with developmental disabilities stand in the way of possibilities for the people we support.

For more info & to donate visit: www.buildingdreamstogether.org

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THE HANGOVER, UP

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