

# 'Obsession' drives man's interest in reform school sex scandal trial

By Henry Bury

The Intelligencer

Larry McCullough is "obsessed" with following every detail of what's being billed as Canada's largest sexual abuse scandal.

The scandal involves the Christian Brothers Catholic lay order and their alleged physical and sexual abuse of boys at two Ontario reform schools from 1952 to 1973. More than 200 charges have now been laid against more than 30 men.

Four hundred former residents have stepped forward with allegations since the OPP probe was launched in February, 1990.

McCullough was one of those boys and he's not afraid to speak out against the sexual and physical actions displayed by Christian brothers at both St. John's Training School in Uxbridge and St. Joseph's Training School for Boys in Alfred, 65 km east of Ottawa.

McCullough spent five years at St. Joseph's in Alfred and he's already given his testimony to OPP investigators and may be called to testify in court.

He protests the entire affair regularly in Belleville by carrying a large sign, alluding to the sexual abuse scandal and stating "children are our future".

McCullough wants justice done in Ontario's courts when the trials begin later this spring.

Surprisingly enough, he doesn't want the Christian brothers sent to jail for their wrongdoings.

"Sending them to jail isn't what I want. I want an apology from the brothers and the Roman Catholic church, specifically, for what I and all the other boys went through," McCullough said from his Foster Avenue home Wednesday.

"And I don't want them or any other broth-

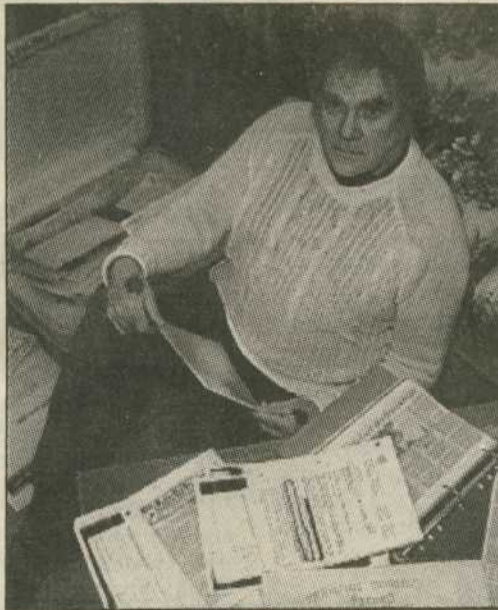


Photo by Frank O'Connor

## Larry McCullough with his 'archives'.

ers to be put in a position of being able to abuse children any more. I want them ousted from any dealings with children. That should be their penalty."

As well, McCullough said, he and others should be compensated financially for the abuse suffered at the hands of the Christian brothers.

"I want this all behind me. I want an apology. I'm a victim of circumstances and I want to be compensated for it."

McCullough despises child molesters because of the way he was treated.

In trouble with the law since an early age, McCullough was destined for the penal system. Eight years were spent in reform

schools.

From 1953-55, he was at St. John's Training school in Toronto (not the one in Uxbridge where charges have been laid). But he alleged sexual abuse was also prevalent there.

But McCullough spent from 1955-61 at St. John's Training School in Alfred.

Over those eight years, McCullough said he was abused physically, mentally and sexually.

"I deserved it sometimes but not always. And there wasn't a week that went by that I wasn't abused in one form or another, but mostly sexually," he said.

He credits the Mount Cashel Orphanage abuse scandal in St. John's, NFLD., for bringing the Ontario reform schools scandal to public light.

"I've been on this case now for 18 months. I've been following it every day at the library. I'm simply obsessed by all this because of the way I was abused. It's a painful chapter in my life and something I must see through to the end," he said.

After leaving reform school, he turned to a life of crime — mainly robbery and theft — as well as alcohol and drugs.

McCullough came to Belleville 12 years ago. He's been "clean" the past nine months and much of it is attributed to the revelations coming out about the abuse in those two schools.

"I'm not giving up until justice is served. I have to remember what they did. And that's something I'll never get out of my mind."

McCullough said he's prepared to carry his protest sign coast to coast in Canada "if I thought it would prevent one child from being molested.

"Children are our future and I don't like what I'm reading in newspapers about child abuse. It must be stopped."

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