

Cramahe councillor admits assault

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A Cramahe Township councillor has pleaded guilty to chasing a Colborne man through the village with a baseball bat and assaulting him after the councillor's father was threatened by a group of young people last summer.

Councillor Timothy Martin Gilligan Jr., 39, won't be sentenced until April 27 when a pre-sentence report is completed for the judge's evaluation.

The assault was part of a larger "feud" involving a number of area young people and various incidents, including trespassing, damage to property and death threats

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GILLIGAN

Man 'poked' with bat

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which took place primarily between June and August 2008 in the township, the court heard as charges against a total of seven people were dealt with in Cobourg's Ontario Court of Justice yesterday.

"Do you agree you poked him twice in the mouth with a bat?" Justice Rhys Morgan asked Gilligan Jr. about the June assault on 22-year-old Shane Carter.

"Yes," replied Gilligan Jr. as his father, Timothy B. Gilligan Sr., watched from the body of the courtroom.

Crown attorney Nancy Rae said the accused councillor called the police June 24 to report death threats issued against his father by a group of males. Previously police were called about damage to Gilligan Sr.'s farm fence, which some young men climbed while trespassing to reach a fishing stream. The elder Gilligan's truck had also been damaged when someone painted white all over it, including the windows.

Gilligan Jr. said he was going to a local park to "sort the matter out" and was taking the baseball bat, court heard. When police arrived there was a large group of young people, some carrying golf clubs. Carter was bleeding from the mouth, Rae said.

The bat was not swung, but "poked," at Carter, court heard.

The councillor's father and his spouse had been threatened by Christopher Partridge, 22, of Colborne when he went to their Lakeport Road farm June 24. The threat included using a rock in a "menacing fashion," Rae said, plus using his fingers to indicate a gun. The police were called.

Justice Morgan sentenced Partridge to a year's probation after he pleaded guilty to threatening serious harm to the Gilligans. A firearm ban was part of the sentencing and for the next year he must not go within 1,000 metres of either Gilligan's residence or place of employment.

Carter, the victim of the baseball bat assault, pleaded guilty to assaulting two other young people. He spat on one of them. A pre-sentence report has been ordered before the judge passes sentence.

Mischief charges against Robert Lambier, 22, and Joseph Mitchell, 24, of Cramahe Township for climbing on Gilligan Sr.'s fence were withdrawn because they agreed to enter into a peace bond for a year and to stay away from the Gilligans, who own the Queen's Hotel at the main intersection of Colborne.

That means you have to stay out of downtown Colborne, Morgan stressed.

The youngest of the group is the only one sentenced to jail time so far, although two sentencings are yet to come. Michael Carter, the 20-year-old brother of Shane Carter, was among those charged with damaging Gilligan Sr.'s fence, and he admitted to damaging the truck Gilligan had for sale by painting it white in early June. He has been in jail since his arrest in January.

In addition to other charges, last August Michael Carter called a man in his Colborne apartment and accused him of being responsible for the arrest of his brother, Shane. Court heard he then went over and broke the door jamb while trying to get in, but he was pushed out again. Michael Carter threatened to kill the man, court heard. Two days later, court was told, he also threatened to kill another young man with a gun, although he didn't have one at the time. Michael Carter continued breaking the peace despite curfews and court orders, racking up seven charges.

Michael Carter did not seek bail and has spent 50 days in jail awaiting resolution of all of these intertwined cases. The judge ordered him to spend 10 additional days in jail for his lawless ways, plus ordered a year's probation during which time he is not to associate with Lambier, Mitchell or Partridge, he must stay away from those people he threatened including the Gilligans, he must not have any firearms for five years and he must provide a DNA sample for the registry.

Despite a plea by Michael Carter and his lawyer for an intermittent sentence to visit his dying grandfather in the hospital, this was not granted.

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