

# 'Priest' stands trial on three counts

A 55-year-old Limehouse man who allegedly posed as a Roman Catholic priest defrauded five people of over \$4,000 to finance operation of his own parish and convent on the Fifth Line, Halton Hills, a Halton Court was told this week.

Monday, the three count fraud trial of Dennis Edward Scallen began before Judge Allan B. Sprague and a jury of six men and six women. Scallen pleaded not guilty on all three counts.

Assistant Crown Attorney Larry Owen told the jury Monday that Scallen knew he wasn't recognized as a Roman Catholic priest by the Church but he went ahead and acted as a Roman Catholic priest because he had such a great desire to be a Catholic priest.

He told the court the accused wanted money to finance his own parish and his victims gave him the money because they believed he was a Roman Catholic priest.

Throughout the two days of proceedings so far, Scallen has sat dressed in priestly garb. He is wearing a white collar, black long sleeved shirt, sleeveless black sweater and sometimes a black trench coat. Scallen appears disinterested in proceedings at times and is reading a book entitled "Pastor Out in the Cold" by Father Yves Lamontane.

Questioning by Owen and defence lawyer Jack Bellegem of Father Harvey Roach both Monday and Tuesday has shown indications the legitimacy of renegade priests will be a central issue in the trial and the results could have far reaching ramifications.

Scallen was arrested last summer following a lengthy police investigation and raid on his Benedictines of Mary Immaculate convent on the Fifth Line. Scallen's "church" was in a metal-sided, single-storey building at R.R. 1, Limehouse.

Owen said Scallen, his victims and many others were upset when the Second Vatican Council decided to revamp many Catholic procedures and traditions.

The Tridentine mass, dating back to the 1500s was dropped and by 1975 the traditional mass was ordered illegal in Canadian Roman Catholic Churches.

Among the changes brought in by the Vatican II was the use of the native tongue, in this case English, to replace Latin in the mass. Also the altar was moved and the priest no longer had his back to the congregation, facing parishioners instead.

Owen told the jury the new mass format "frustrated" many Roman Catholics, including some in the church hierarchy. Scallen was one of those people frustrated by the new ways, the prosecutor added.

Prior to becoming in-

terested in being a Roman Catholic priest in the early 1970's, Scallen had worked out of his Fifth Line shed as an agricultural technologist, and achieved remarkable results growing fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes without light and water.

Owen noted Scallen wrote the Bishop of the Hamilton Diocese of which Halton Hills is a part, asking that he be ordained a Roman Catholic priest but never received a reply. This rebuff only frustrated Scallen more, Owen pointed out.

About the same time Scallen became interested in the teachings of a woman who claims to have visions. Her name is Veronica Lukan, of Bayfield, New York.

Owen claimed Veronica told Scallen the "Blessed Mother" told her to tell him he shouldn't seek out the priesthood through "normal channels".

Scallen later wrote to a monk he knew in Quebec noting his desire to be a priest adding if he didn't receive some kind of a message soon he would assume he was to follow the "inspiration" and become ordained.

Just days before Scallen was ordained by Bishop Joseph Rauber the Quebec monk wrote and warned him his forthcoming ordination would be considered "illicit, invalid and illegitimate" by the Roman Catholic Church.

The monk told Scallen in the letter that Bishop Joseph, a Benedictine priest who broke with the church after Vatican II, couldn't perform a valid ordination.

Nevertheless on December 18, 1974, Scallen was ordained by Bishop Joseph of the Syro Antiochian rite.

In the spring of 1975 two Brantford families who longed for the traditional Roman Catholic ways went to Scallen and later sent their two daughters, one age 13, to him to become nuns.

Owen reported Scallen told one of the girls if she didn't become a nun she would "go to hell".

Owen told the jury that one Brantford family, Daniel and Mary MacDonald, attended traditional Tridentine masses at Scallen's Limehouse "church" and believing he was a Roman Catholic priest donated \$800 to the parish. Both of their daughters were nuns at Scallen's convent.

In January, 1976, another Brantford girl became a nun, Owen explained, and her parents Daniel and Barbara Kennedy, were told by Scallen that there wouldn't be a convent if he didn't get money soon to pay the rent. They later gave the priest they thought was a Roman Catholic \$2,700 in cash and a cheque for \$500.

Also in 1976 John Tonelli of Oakville gave Scallen \$80 for a mass said for the victim's deceased parents.

Owen told the court that just two weeks before police

swooped down on his Fifth Line headquarters he told his nuns he had heard the police would be charging him soon. Scallen told the nuns that would be no problem for him since he would refuse to say he was a Roman Catholic priest.

The trial's only witness in two days, Father Harvey Roach, was asked by Hamilton Diocese Bishop Paul Reding to assist police with their investigation. Father Roach is a Hamilton parish priest and has been director of religious education in the Hamilton Diocese since 1970.

Father Roach has given extensive testimony regarding the Roman Catholic Church's organization and structure dealing with the church's views of various

schismatic, splinter and renegade Catholics.

He said the Syro-Antiochian rite is one of the Orthodox churches which doesn't accept the doctrine of the Pope and while its bishops are validly ordained they aren't recognized as Roman Catholic priests.

Those bishops can't ordain Roman Catholic priests he added.

Father Roach testified the visions of Veronica haven't been endorsed by the Roman Catholic Church.

He said it is unlawful and considered sinful to celebrate the mass in the Tridentine format.

Examining a number of photographs presumably of the interior of Scallen's church, though that hasn't been stated in court yet, Father Roach identified a

number of religious items which he said a priest would use in performing a Tridentine mass. He noted the altar was against the wall so the priest performing the mass would have his back to the congregation.

He said a person must become a deacon before being ordained as a priest. Father Roach said if Scallen was a Roman Catholic priest he couldn't be a deacon, sub-deacon and priest in one day as the accused's ordination papers from Bishop Joseph state.

He testified he had never dealt with Scallen as a priest and had never heard of the Benedictines of Mary Immaculate. "It means nothing to me. It's not a Roman Catholic Order as far as I'm aware."

Asked by Owen if he had ever heard of Roman Catholic priests trying to capture a picture of the Holy Ghost with a polaroid Father Roach said no.

He answered in the negative to Owen's question regarding Roman Catholic priests having women undress in front of them as a form of penance or humbling oneself. He admitted to Bellegem if he had heard that a priest had a woman undress before him he would find the story "preposterous".

Bellegem said the Syro-Antiochian rite dates back to 400-500 A.D. and the ordination of its priests is recognized by the Catholic Church and their Bishops can perform ordinations and the priests can perform mass.

Father Roach agreed but added their mass isn't lawful in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church even if it is a Tridentine mass.

He said the pictures of a church's interior he was shown were "appropriately religious" adding there seemed to be an emphasis in the statues of saint devotion. He said the church in the pictures were of an old or Tridentine Catholic church and likely someone under 30 wouldn't recognize it.

He concluded a person can be ordained as a priest and recognized as a priest and still not be a Roman Catholic priest.



EARL WALLER, from the Legion, plants flowers at the graveside of deceased members of the branch, on Sunday, Decoration Day. The IODE also took part in the special day which has seen declining interest in recent years.



Mark Rowe

John Mark Rowe, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rowe of Acton, graduated from the University of Guelph, at the June 1 convocation. Mark graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He will be attending Teacher's College for the fall semester at the University of Toronto. Mark attended M. Z. Bennett and Acton high school.



Rick Rocher

On Thursday, June 1, Rick Rocher, of Acton, graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and Psychology. While at University Rick made the Dean's list.



Peter Campbell

Peter James Campbell received his Bachelor of Commerce degree cum Laude at McMaster University, Hamilton, this month. A former O.P.P. constable in Acton, he remained with the force while studying at McMaster. He is presently at O.P.P. headquarters in Toronto in Special Services, Rackets branch.

His wife is the former Elizabeth Kirby of Eden Mills, and they have a young son, Joshua. They live now in Oakville.

## Regional lawyer needs help

Halton Region's Administration Committee has recommended that a solicitor be hired to assist Regional Solicitor Dennis Perlin in the law department. The hiring must be ratified by council.

The assistant will be paid between \$21,000 and \$24,000. Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid said there is an incredible workload for the law department right now.

## Notice of Public Meeting Thursday, June 23, 1978 8:00 p.m. PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED

The Halton Hills Library Board invites the citizens of Halton Hills to attend a public meeting for the purpose of discussing present library facilities and future alternatives in the Town of Georgetown.

The Board urges all citizens who wish to express their views to attend this meeting.

For those unable to attend the Public Meeting, the Board invites comments, written or verbal, by contacting the following members:

- |  |                    |   |          |
|--|--------------------|---|----------|
| Mr. N. Elliot<br>112 Elmore Dr.<br>Acton, Ont.<br>L7J 1T2          | 853-1804           | Mr. D. Magwood<br>42 Greystone Cres.<br>Georgetown, Ont.<br>L7G 1G9 | 877-5418 |
| Mrs. Betty Fisher<br>38 Charles St.<br>Georgetown, Ont.<br>L7G 2Z3 | 877-5967           | Mrs. C. Parego<br>143 Rowway Dr.<br>Georgetown, Ont.<br>L7G 1R8     | 877-9438 |
| Mr. R.T. Howitt<br>R.R. 5, Milton, Ont.<br>L8T 2K9                 | (Bus.)<br>878-4340 | Mrs. R. Wilson<br>R.R. 5, Milton, Ont.<br>L8T 2K9                   | 878-2415 |
| Mr. George Lee<br>68 Church Rd. S.<br>Acton, Ont.<br>L7J 2J4       | 853-1066           | Mr. W. Biehn<br>26 Queen St.<br>Georgetown                          | 877-3524 |
| Mr. Michael McMahon<br>R.R. 4, Acton, Ont.<br>L7J 2M1              | 853-3218           |   |          |

## \$36,000 to shelter Young 'driver' nicks fenders

Halton Regional Public Works Committee has sanctioned the construction of a \$36,000 domeshaped building to store salt and sand at the works station on Steeles Ave. The action was taken after the region received complaints from neighbors and the Ministry of the Environment about the salt polluting neighboring lands and streams with salt runoff.

Director of Public Works Bob Moore said the sand and salt piles are in the open now and visible from Highway 401.

"Our location next to Highway 401 is highly visible and is creating poor public relations."

Funds for the construction of the dome will come from money that had been earmarked for work on Steeles Ave. but that job won't be finished this year.

**THE ACTON FREE PRESS**  
Authorized as Second Class Mail  
Postal Registration Number—6515

## Housing densities contentious issue

The inclusion of figures for a proposed future housing density mix in the regional official plan proved a contentious issue at regional planning committee last week.

Counsellors reviewing submissions from the public failed to agree on whether the figures should be included in the plan itself or in the appendix. Planning staff will be returning with a revised policy in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

Oakville Councillor Ron Planché was one who opposed the inclusion of the figures, saying they conflict with the desires of Oakville residents for a stable community. He said the proposed change in density for Oakville, which would shift from a ratio of 75 per cent single family dwellings to 50 per cent single dwellings in 25 years, would result in a "radical revolution" in life style and housing.

Oakville Councillor Arch Donaghy, on the other hand, argued the figures are a projection for a life style that is changing already.

The proposed figures showed a slight drop in the percentage of low density housing.

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow commented the conflict was between what people wanted to see happen and what experts predict will happen because of social and economic trends. "We can't change it. We have to plan for it."

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said the proposed figures matched fairly closely what housing by 2001 and a corresponding increase in the percentage of medium and high density housing in Milton and Halton Hills. The two northern municipalities would still have a higher proportion of low density housing and a lower proportion of high density housing than Burlington or Oakville by 2001.

Planner Rash Mohammed pointed out the appearance of a community was a matter of design rather than density.

"A community can have high density zoning and still look good. The design of a community is where the local municipality can show innovation and experimentation."

## 'Halton Hogs'

Halton Regional Police are forming their own motorcycle organization.

"The Halton Hogs", as they have named themselves, number under a dozen but consist of enthusiastic police who are owners of motorcycles.

T-shirts have already been designed and made to distinguish the new club.

## Wintario \$\$ coming

A Wintario grant of \$5,000 is to be made to Halton Hills library to aid in the purchase of Canadian materials and materials for the handicapped.

Halton Hills recreation department will receive a Wintario grant of \$2,010 to help purchase gymnastic equipment.

A grant of \$601 is to be made to the Georgetown and district Ym-YWCA to share in the costs of pre-schooler day camp and fitness program.

The Norval community association is to receive a grant of \$254 to share in the cost of the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations.

## CNIB drive

The annual campaign for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is underway in Acton and district all this month. About 100 canvassers will be going door to door in the drive. Campaign chairman Vic Bristow has set a goal of \$3,000 for this year, up \$200 from last year.

"I hope people will respond as well as they always have in other years," Mr. Bristow says.

**The Village Fine Shoppe**  
75 Mill Street East, Acton

**June Special**

**15% OFF PINE BEDROOM SUITE**

(CONSISTING OF DOUBLE BED, 60" CHEST MATCHING MIRROR AND 2 NIGHT TABLES)

Offer Good 'Til June 30

Scotia Plan Financing - Master Charge - ChargeX

*"Drop In For A Visit"*  
853-3460

### ANNOUNCEMENT



Gord Ramsden Halton Hills Collision is pleased to announce that GORD RAMSDEN has joined their "One Stop-Auto Service Centre" staff as Class 'A' mechanic. For any mechanical problems on your automobile drop in or call...

**HALTON HILLS COLLISION**  
Crewson's Corners  
853-2860

**INTRODUCING!**

**ONE STOP AUTO-SERVICE IN THE ACTON AREA**

**HALTON HILLS COLLISION . . .**

. . . now has a licensed mechanic to do your mechanical repairs, tune-ups, grease jobs and oil changes, plus a wide variety of other auto services including front end alignments.

Let our professional bodymen restore your car, whether it be a general paint job or an extreme collision repair. We have 1st class equipment, along with professional experience to handle anything from your bent frame to adjusting your headlights.

*We do our best to Satisfy*

**TELEPHONE 853-2860**

**HALTON HILLS COLLISION**

FOR FREE PICK-UP AND DELIVERY

CREWSON'S CORNERS

**MAKE WAY FOR SUMMER**

**SALE**

ON A

**SANYO**

**Stereo Music System**

**DXT 5251/50**  
4-in-1 AM/FM stereo with changer, built-in 8-track recorder/player and cassette deck, built-in automatic record changer with cueing function, record level meters, rotary controls for volume, balance and tone. One pair SX 2050 speakers.

**REGULAR \$689**  
**\$499**

**STEREO COMPONENT SHELVING (REGULAR \$79)**

**\$4900**

CONTRACTS

**HALTON HILLS**  
*Furniture & Appliances*

352 QUEEN STREET EAST, HWY. 7, ACTON 853-0211