

# Man testifies he was swindled

By FANNIE SUNSHINE  
The Champion

A Mississauga man testified Tuesday he was scammed out of \$35,000 in connection with dealings at the Village Pine Shoppe in Campbellville.

In the preliminary hearing of fraud suspect Oriana Currie, Peter Caragioiu told Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton he met Charles Currie, Ms Currie's son, in March while serving time at Maplehurst Correctional Complex.

"He (Mr. Currie) was very charming and nice to me," Mr. Caragioiu said, adding Mr. Currie told him he was in jail for telling bad jokes about former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"He said his family was very rich and they had a business dealing with furniture. I told him I was laid off from my job and I had no place to live. He asked me if I had any money and I told him no, but I had a \$35,000 line of credit.

"He told me if I put up the money, his mother would post bail for me and would buy the furniture cheap and the three of us would split the profits when the furniture was sold from the shop. I said it sounds good."

Mr. Caragioiu testified that Ms Currie posted bail for him several days later and he moved into a warehouse on the property of the shop.

"She was nice to me, like a mother," he told the court. "I felt close to her."

During the next several weeks, only a handful of furniture items were sold from his share, he said.

"She (Ms Currie) started taking away my furniture one day. When I asked her where she was taking it, she said it was her furniture and she bought it with her own money. When I said what about my money, she

said, 'What money?'"

Mr. Caragioiu said he spoke to Mr. Currie and told him what his mother had said.

"He said they borrowed the money from Canada Trust. When I asked him to give me back my money, he said he couldn't because it was invested. I went to the police because I realized it was fraud. I'm still paying off the \$35,000."

Defense attorney Peter McWilliams suggested Mr. Caragioiu actually made the deal solely with Mr. Currie to split the profits between the two of them and the only part Ms Currie had in the matter was

ordering the furniture.

"No, we were going to split the profits between the three of us," Mr. Caragioiu insisted.

Ms Currie was arrested July 5 and charged with fraud over \$5,000.

Charles Currie is also charged in the alleged fraud, but chose not to have a preliminary hearing, and will go to trial in Superior Court in January.

Ms Currie's preliminary hearing, held to determine if enough evidence exists to go to trial, will continue December 18 in Ontario court (provincial division) in Milton.

# Woman's fraud charge dropped

A charge of fraud over \$5,000 against a Campbellville woman in connection with the Village Pine Shoppe has been dropped.

Crown Attorney Andrew Goodman told Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton Tuesday that there was "no reasonable prospect of a conviction" of the charge against Sheri Duff.

She was co-charged with Charles Currie and Oriana Currie, who are currently before the courts in connection with the Campbellville furniture store.



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