

House arrest for corrections officer

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

A corrections officer who pleaded guilty to providing contraband to female inmates in exchange for sexual favours will spend the next six months under house arrest.

William McBride, 65 — who was employed at Milton's Vanier Institute for Women at the Maplehurst Correctional Complex — pleaded guilty January 26 at Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington to four counts of breach of trust and three counts of sexual assault in connection with incidents that occurred in March of last year.

Mr. McBride, who was living in Cambridge at the time of his arrest, was sentenced by Judge Fred Forsyth to an 18-month conditional sentence for each of the seven charges, to be served concurrently (at the same time).

"It's obviously a major breach of trust when a prison guard takes advantage of inmates," said Det. Keith Woudstra of Halton Regional Police, adding the judge likely took into consideration

the man's guilty plea when deciding on the sentence.

Crown Attorney Andrew Goodman explained from his office Tuesday that Mr. McBride will be required to remain in his home for six of the 18 months, except to go to his place of employment — which is no longer Vanier Institute, as he resigned — or other exceptions such as to receive medical treatment.

Other conditions will govern the remainder of the term.

He said the sentence takes into account Mr. McBride's age and the fact he had no prior criminal record.

The 18-month conditional sentence was a joint submission by the crown and the defence "based on the steps Mr. McBride took in terms of dealing with the underlying issues and the fact that he resigned and no longer holds a position of trust," Mr. Goodman said.

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Manslaughter suspect in court

An Orillia man charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of a Milton dentist will return to court March 14. Adam Holland, 21, appeared at Ontario Court of Justice in Orillia last month to set the date.

Dr. David Dumencu, 42, was found lying unconscious with head injuries in the parking lot of an Orillia-area tavern at about 2 a.m. July 16.

He was taken to an Orillia hospital and then transferred to Toronto Western Hospital where he died two days later.

A post mortem revealed the cause of death was a blunt force head injury.

Fraud case resumes

A Milton couple facing numerous charges in connection with a series of mortgage frauds will return to Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket March 11.

Frank Basso, 47, and his wife, Catherine, 46, both of Rutledge Road, were charged with a total of 16 and 10 counts respectively of fraud over \$5,000, conspiracy to commit fraud, uttering a forged document, obtaining money by a forged document and obtaining credit by false pretence along with three other non-Milton residents. They appeared at Newmarket court last month when the date was set.

The charges relate to two incidents in 2001 and 2002, in which fraudulent mortgages were arranged on houses unbeknownst to the owners — relatives of the suspects — to obtain money.

York Regional Police allege \$1.7 million was pocketed by the five suspects from a total of three incidents in Toronto and Vaughan, one in which no charges were laid against the Milton couple.

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