

Teenager describes 'nightmare'

UXBRIDGE TWP. — A Pefferlaw teenager says she accepted a ride with the man who'd just raped her because she didn't have any other way to get home.

Lloyd Edgar Harper, 24, of Beaver Road, Uxbridge Twp., faces a charge of sexual assault involving an alleged incident with the 15-year-old girl.

The trial began Monday before Supreme Court Justice C.A. Osbourne at Lindsay.

The girl, whose name cannot be published by order of the court, took the stand to detail her activities back on June 27, 1984.

The plaintiff said she and a girlfriend accepted a ride from three men in a pickup truck at about 1 p.m. that day. She identified two of the vehicle's occupants as Lloyd Harper and his brother, Dallas.

It was raining and I needed a ride to my home about four miles away, she told the court.

After striking up an acquaintance with the men, the girl invited them in to playing pong at her family home, court was told. Both girls then joined the Harpers on a

number of afternoon stopovers, including trips to Uxbridge Twp. and to Elton Twp. where another brother, Shane Harper, lives.

There, after playing a game of frisbee, the two girls eventually decided they wanted to go home.

"I kept asking them to drive me home, but they kept saying no," the plaintiff said, noting that it was at this time Lloyd Harper appeared to be getting angry at her.

The two girls began walking, but returned to Shane's house because they were lost, court was told. They waited out in the truck for approximately a half hour before being invited back in the house.

At about 9:30 p.m., Lloyd Harper and the plaintiff went outside to the pickup truck, she testified. The girl said she thought they were going to talk about driving her and her girlfriend home, but instead Harper drove a short distance down the road and threatened her.

"He said he'd beat me up if I tried to run," she told the court. "He said he wanted to make love to me."

She testified that she was forced to have sexual intercourse with the accused, despite her pleas for him to stop.

"I kept thinking 'this can't be happening to me,'" the teenager said. "I thought I was going to wake up. It was a nightmare."

Harper's defence lawyer, Alex Sosna, questioned the girl on a number of alleged discrepancies between Monday's court testimony and information provided at a Dec. 11 preliminary hearing.

Mr Sosna wondered why she didn't try to phone home from Shane Harper's residence.

The Pefferlaw resident said she was taught by her parents not to use a stranger's telephone, and admitted that she didn't even think about using the phone.

He also wondered about the girl's behavior in the hours preceding the alleged rape.

"These guys (the Harper brothers) were drinking and driving through rural Ontario and you were enjoying it!" the defence attorney stated.

"It was okay," the girl replied.

"Did you find what was happening exciting?" Mr Sosna inquired.

"It was okay," she said.

The plaintiff consumed "not more than five beers" that day, it was determined. She was also forced to take a puff of what she believed to be a marijuana cigarette.

Mr Sosna questioned why the girl drove home in the truck with Harper following the alleged sexual assault.

"This man just raped you, and you sat beside him because you had to get home?" Mr Sosna asked sharply.

"Ya," the girl replied, explaining that she was scared and needed some way to get back to her family's Pefferlaw residence.

She later told her father about the incident and police were notified.

"I thought he (Harper) was really nice...I

liked him," she testified about her earlier displays of affection toward the accused. The plaintiff said she kissed Lloyd Harper a number of times that day.

At one point in Monday's court proceedings, Justice Osbourne advised the plaintiff that it would be better for her to simply say "I don't know" rather than comment on details she can't clearly recall.

"It strikes me that you're trying to remember certain things that it would be hard for a person in your situation to remember," he told the girl.

The trial continued Tuesday with Crown Attorney Jerry Warren expected to call a number of other witnesses, including the plaintiff's girlfriend and Mr Harper's brothers Dallas and Shane.

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