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Blow scores good deal with light sentence



Joan Ransberry

Would you relinquish six months of freedom for \$7.2 million?

Let's do the math. It works out to \$1,200,000 per month. After expenses, including time served, that's what a Stouffville businessman made by fleecing 70 clients.

David Blow, 44, robbed the old, the sick and the hopeful. He robbed fellow business people, church members, retired folk and farmers. His greed included dipping into people's inheritances. Blow stole \$25,000 from a Newmarket couple — money that came from the man's father. He was a farmer who devoted his entire life to a frugal lifestyle and hard work. The farmer sacrificed in the name of God and family, only to have a con artist rob him after death.

Victims of the multi-million dollar fraud oppose the early release of Blow.

Last August he was charged with 70 counts of fraud involving 67 victims, many from York Region. The money is gone, or so the story goes.

Blow ran a finance business for more than a decade. Arrested at his executive-style home, he pleaded guilty to all charges. He's scheduled to be released on day parole in September. He'll live in a halfway house until April, when he'll be released on full parole.

I've never spoken to Blow. But I've had conversations with some of his victims. One of them touched me.

A Haliburton senior lost a bundle after 40 years of hard work. She looked after her responsibilities and, along the way, invested to make sure she'd live in comfort in her later years. Today, there's little comfort in her life. She was robbed by a fellow Christian, or so she thought.

The lady is broke, embarrassed and angry. Much of the anger is directed at the federal justice system. She's been victimized twice, by Blow and then by Canada. She says no other country is so lenient.

Lives are in shambles, savings are

gone, businesses ruined, lifestyles destroyed, university education money gone and elderly people left with no means to stay in their homes," she said.

When committing the crimes, Blow didn't use a weapon. His mouth was his gun, one victim stated.

Blow was a respected and well-liked member of a church in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Some knew him for 20-some years, or so they thought.

The Fosters, parents of three children, are also questioning our justice system.

"How can you teach your children to obey the law when they know they'll get nothing more than a slap on the wrist for doing something very wrong? This is a terrible example of justice," said Beth Foster.

"What kind of a justice system is this?" Stouffville businessman Dennis Alsop asked. "It doesn't make him show where the money is."

Some in the justice system suggest the victims are not qualified to comment on the length of Blow's incarceration.

Apparently victims have neither the professionalism nor sufficient information nor the smarts to make a judgment.

I have a question: How come they were qualified enough to earn the money Blow stole?

Instead of six months for a \$7.2 million crime, being a deterrent, it's an encouragement — and a better deal than I have. I failed to earn \$1.2 million this month. How about you?

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