

THURSDAY JULY 25, 1991 FINAL

# Area priest jailed for sexual assault

By Sennan Malony  
*The Star*  
and Peter Hum  
*Citizen staff writer*

DUBLIN — A Catholic priest acquitted of sexual assault charges in Ottawa in September 1990 was sentenced today in a Dublin court to eight years in prison for beating and sexually assaulting a 17-year-old male.

Rev. Michael Mullins, 35, formerly of Gloucester but a native of Cork, Ireland, pleaded guilty to what the judge termed a "brutal sexual assault" in June. Mullins drove a youth to his house where he beat the victim and forced him to perform sexual acts, court was told.

Cork police Insp. Seamus Quinlan told the court Mullins, a former chaplain with the Gloucester Police, had approached his victim at about 2 a.m. on June 4 after the victim left a Cork nightclub.

Mullins offered the youth a ride home but instead drove to his rented home outside Cork.

When the youth refused to perform oral sex, Mullins sat on the youth and beat him across the face and head. He then forced the youth to participate.

Mullins later drove the youth away and dropped him off at a traffic circle. Two days after the attack, the victim was drinking in a Cork bar when he saw Mullins. The youth and another man made a citizen's arrest and detained Mullins until Irish national police arrived.

The victim, who attended the hearing with his parents, smiled broadly when Mullins was sentenced and said he was "delighted" with the decision.

In Ireland, a judge may impose a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for serious sexual assault. The judge refused an application for appeal against the severity of Mullins's sentence.

In a statement to police, Mullins said he had been drinking before he approached the youth. He said he wasn't sure if the youth wanted a homosexual encounter, but took his acceptance of a ride as an indication of willingness.

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Mullins admitted to police he hit the youth with his fists after the youth told him he was "straight."

Mullins said he was extremely sorry for the pain and suffering he caused. After pleading guilty, he gave the victim's family a cheque for about \$3,100 to pay for counselling.

The court also heard that Ottawa's archbishop, Marcel Gervais, had written a letter to Mullins's lawyer offering to take responsibility for the arrangement of suitable psychiatric treatment for Mullins in Canada.

Archdiocesan spokesman Rev. Patrick Powers said today Gervais was distressed by the news of Mullins's latest court case and has requested full disclosure.

"The archbishop will reconvene the commission of inquiry and ask it to review this grave matter and advise him on what action to take," Powers said. "The matter will be dealt with promptly and appropriately."

In September 1990, Mullins was found not guilty of sex assault in Ottawa after a judge questioned testimony from a male hitchhiker.

Mullins, then pastor of St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Gloucester, was suspended from his duties when he was charged. The 19-year-old hitchhiker had accused Mullins of rubbing his leg and genitals as they drove along the Queensway on Aug. 19, 1989.

In rendering his not-guilty verdict in September 1990, Judge Edward Houston said the "circumstances are suspicious, but that's not enough" to convict Mullins.

(Sennan Malony is a reporter with *The Star* in Dublin)

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### Lottery

Winning numbers in Wednesday's 6/49 draw: 7, 15, 19, 32, 33; and 34. Bonus: 20.

Encore: 359311.

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Ottawa police Const. Don Gwoet and his horse hit the roads on the Central Experimental Farm — on Wednesdays mounted patrols in the city. Please see story/B1

# Kealey fallout

By Deborah Dowling  
National economics writer

The fire was set by an unemployed Hull businessman, fanned by a lowly justice of the peace and watched as far away as Japan and Europe.

The heat burned the Canadian economy and, more than a week after the blaze started, the Bank of Canada is still dousing the embers.

The central bank's trend-setting rate is expected to rise today for the second week in a row, evidence of a continuing battle to contain the damage.

In the ashes are a stable Canadian dollar, continued decline in interest rates and strong confidence in the economic recovery.

It seems hard to credit, even in the middle of the silly season, that one of the world's biggest economies could be affected by one man's campaign against the federal government.

But money traders say Glen Kealey's courtroom victory last week tells as much about the vulnerability of the Canadian economy as it does of alleged corruption in high government places.

The Kealey Inferno began last Wednesday when an Ottawa Justice of the Peace allowed Kealey to file charges against 13 prominent Tories and three senior Mounties.

The news was flashed to international currency markets from Chicago to Tokyo and the reaction was as immediate as it was ill-informed.

Most money traders seemed unaware of the distinction between a justice of the peace and a judge or that the "scandal" had been around for several years.

An investment advisory issued by the Deutsche Bank in New York referred to a "political scandal that has implicated a number of people closely associated with the Conservative government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney."

It described how "an Ottawa judge had ruled favourably on the kickback allegations presented by a Quebec businessman, which would permit the investigation to proceed."

Japanese investment houses, used to domestic political scandals of their own, knocked the Canadian dollar off its perch of 87.11 cents U.S. The sell-off cont-

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