

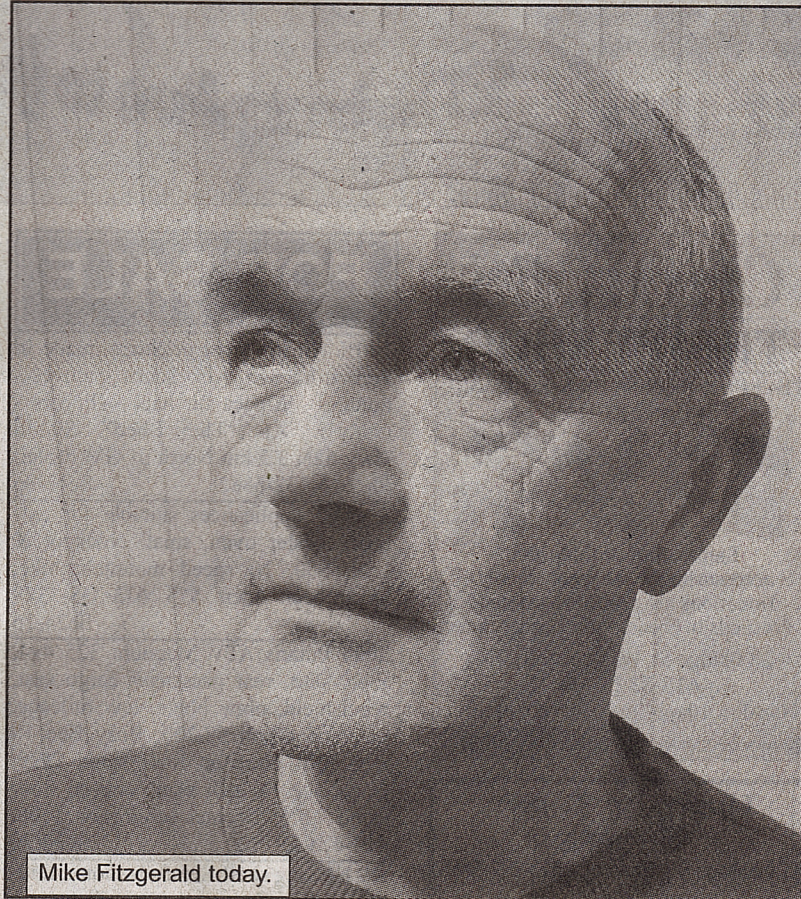
It's my sincere hope that someone in my predicament would see this story and it would give him the courage to speak up. The courage to seek help and speak up. I do suspect there are others out there.

"The empowering thing is some good may come of this.

"I find it remarkable that only two victims have come forward so far and in between those two is a 25 year gap. Pedophiles are not curable, so what has happened in those 25 years? From 1973, in my case, back to 1948 in Golden Lake, are there only two cases involving this same diocese and by the same priest? It's just suspicious at this point."

Fitzgerald was referring to the recent statement of claim filed by a 77-year-old man who has made similar allegations against the diocese and indicated his allegations of sexual abuse were perpetrated by Father Maloney. This case was known to Fitzgerald's lawyers before his negotiated settlement was concluded.

The local victim continued, "If someone else is carrying this load, I hope he can get rid of it. That's kind of a fantasy because you don't get rid of it, you just learn how to carry it better. I learned that through counselling and it continues even now and probably for the rest of my life. First, the counselling was in Bancroft in 2003 after my separation



Mike Fitzgerald today.

from Susan (his first wife). That lasted about one and a half years, initially, until 2005.

"It was 2005 when I met with a church official at the rectory. I was working in Toronto and my anger was acute then and I know now that I was wallowing in it. I sort of sensed I had not been successful at counselling. 'I told him everything and I asked him to investigate my claims against Father Maloney. I also asked him to deal with any other cases like mine. I asked him to call me back and he said he'd investigate and call me. I never heard from him again.

"That was very disturbing and I was pretty down after that.

"Now I feel nothing but pity for Maloney. I didn't know he had died in 1986. I heard about that in the mid 1990s. No, I don't think it was a missed opportunity. I don't think I would have harmed him, physically, but I'd certainly have had something to say to him.

"In 1973 I planned a suicide. I used to drive him to Haliburton, after he said mass in Bancroft. He'd say mass there and we'd have lunch at his friend's house. She was a very kind woman and I think she knew

what was going on.

"There is a sharp turn by a lake on that road near a rock cut. I remember thinking that if I hit that rock cut we'd both be dead. I sped up, but at the last second I chickened out. I thought I was a coward. That was not Mike Fitzgerald, that was Mike wanting relief. I remember saying prayers before this, like I can't do this anymore.

"Then back on the straight road I had a whole range of emotions on the drive back because I knew it (the abuse) would start all over again.

"His favourite saying was, 'It's time to play. God's work is done and it's time to play.'"

"Then the clock would stop. 'He was a mean old man with a grossly inflated image of himself. If I saw a bottle of red wine come out I knew what was coming. When he wanted sex the wine came out and he made me have a glass with him.' Fitzgerald's early experience with the priest began a year before the teenager moved into the rectory.

He recalled, "The 'grooming' began then. David Kelly (now deceased), a Protestant and a teacher at the senior elementary school,