

EDITORS

MIM HENDRY, CHARLES KOPUN
'45-4641 ext. 253

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Catholic trustee owes \$382,500

Father Mark Buckley declares bankruptcy

By PHIL TYSON
Examiner Staff Writer

Separate school board trustee Father Mark Buckley has declared bankruptcy under \$382,541.11 worth of debts, including \$10,000 to the local Catholic diocese.

Recently, two businesses Buckley owned while he served as a priest for a Grafton church — Fish N Critters pet store on Clonsilla Avenue and Miracle of Pets store in Cobourg — have closed.

Buckley has left the parish of St. Mary's Church in Grafton and is currently on leave from the Catholic diocese centred in Peterbor-

ough, says Bishop James Doyle.

Buckley is chairman of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington separate school board's management committee, which oversees financial affairs for the school board.

He was elected to the board representing Hope and Hamilton townships in the 1994 municipal election.

Asked about the bankruptcy after Wednesday's management committee, Buckley refused to comment.

Buckley said he plans to attend teachers' college for a year starting in the fall, but wouldn't say where. He said he was "constantly being harassed" since the bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy records filed March 4 show Buckley owes \$382,541.11 to 21 creditors, including the diocese. Buckley owes \$10,000 of what Doyle termed "expenses incurred." Doyle wouldn't specify what the debt was for.

Much of Buckley's debt — \$202,000^{208,000.00} — is owed to Barbara MacKerrow, a Barrie woman. The records don't specify what that debt involves. MacKerrow could not be reached for comment.

- Among Buckley's other debts are:
- \$60,800 to the Royal Bank.
 - \$54,364.91 to Patricia Vine, of Whitby.
 - \$18,000 to Nissan Canada for his 1995 Nissan Maxima.
 - \$12,000 to his mother, Claudette Buckley, of Peterborough.
 - \$4,732.86 to the sales tax branch of the Ministry of Revenue
 - \$2,163.86 to the town of Cobourg.

The records shows Buckley owes at least \$1,331.50 to Revenue Canada, though that figure is noted as not yet final.

The debts to Vine and Claudette Buckley involve Buckley's home in Colborne, according

to the records.

The Royal Bank loans involve equipment for his stores. The debts include expenses with pet supply dealers.

Buckley's assets are listed as \$67,000 in his Colborne home, \$14,000 equipment, \$20,000 in equipment, \$15,000 in inventory, \$2,000 in furniture and personal effects.

The records indicate Buckley's net take-home pay is \$1,145.21, while his fixed expenses were listed at \$1,900. Buckley's cash-on-hand in bank accounts is "nil."

Doyle said the diocese has no policy on owning businesses.

"We don't encourage that," Doyle said. "There is no official impediment to it, but he can't recall another situation where someone in his diocese had to declare personal bankruptcy."

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Jumping for fund-raising joy

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The Royal Bank loans involve equipment and
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Buckley's assets are listed as \$63,000 equity
in his Colborne home, \$14,000 equity in his car,
\$20,000 in equipment, \$15,000 in inventory and
\$2,000 in furniture and personal effects.

The records indicate Buckley's net monthly
take-home pay is \$1,145.21, while his monthly
fixed expenses were listed at \$1,902.98. Buck-
ley's cash-on-hand in bank accounts was listed
as "nil."

Doyle said the diocese has no policy on priests
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"We don't encourage that," Doyle said, but
there is no official impediment to it. Doyle said
he can't recall another situation where a priest
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