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THE PACKET & TIMES

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CRIME: Fortunato gets three years in prison

Casino fraudster sentenced Thursday

TRACY MCLAUGHLIN

BARRIE - A Toronto man was sentenced Thursday to three years in prison for defrauding two Ontario casinos of \$847,000.

Nicky Fortunato, 49, spent the money at Fallsview Casino and Casino Rama after cashing in forged bank drafts at both casinos in 2012.

Court heard how he used inside help from Bank of Montreal employee Farhaan Bojani in Toronto, who admitted he stole the bank drafts, then intercepted the calls when the casinos tried to verify them. Court heard an unknown person texted Bojani just before

the casinos called. Bojani has never been charged but was

fired from his bank job.

The money was then deposited into Fortunato's casino frequent player accounts.

At the time of his arrest, Fortunato told police the bank drafts were given to him by "a guy named Pasquale," but he didn't know his last name.

COURT

He said Pasquale owed him \$900,000 and so gave him the bank drafts as repayment for the loan. He explained to police he "wins a lot of money at casinos," which boosted his income as a collision-damage estima-

tor.
"The aggravating factors in this case are the magnitude, complexity and degree of planning of the fraud," Judge Stephen Bale said. "A carefully planned and executed series of steps.

But the judge noted "there was no suffering of individuals," as is often the case when victims are defrauded of life savings, so he didn't sentence Fortunato to four years in prison, as the Crown requested.

POLITICS

New campaign citizen-led 'He picked on seniors who

"If Valerie's taken as stand. protecting provincial farmland, and it's source water regions, if the leader of the opposition isn't willing to take that stand, then the people of Simcoe-North have the perfect opportunity to send a message and vote Green."

The timing of the byelection, a short four-week campaign at the start of a federal election which was called weeks before it legally had to, irked both the local candidate and her leader.

"I think it should have been after the federal election," Schreiner said. "Initially, that was the premier's plan all along. It's bad she flip-flopped on it under pressure from the leader of the opposition, who seems to be more concerned about what's good for the Progressive Con servative Party than what's good for the people of Simcoe-North."

"The assumption that he can just walk in," Powell added. "How much will he really care about Simcoe-North?"

The Food and Water First Campaign is a citizen-led effort inspired by the battle against a proposed mega-quarry in Melancthon Twp., near Orangeville. The campaign calls on political leaders to do everything in their power to protect Class 1 farmland and source water

regions in Ontario from further development. Schreiner is the only provincial party leader to have signed onto the pledge to date.

Powell too has signed the commitment, saying how it was a "no brainer" when comparing it to the values of the Green Party

If the previous governments had been more proactive in protecting prime agricultural land, Powell said, one of the most contentious issues in her riding may not have ever come to a head, particularly at Burl's Creek, where park owners are currently seeking to change portions of the property outside of the park's tra-ditional boundaries from its current agricultural designation.

"If there had been policies in place, we wouldn't have had that controversy to start with," Powell said. "Class 1 farmland - even Class 2 or 3 - if we had provincial policies to protect that farmland, than (developers) wouldn't have even looked at farmland.... People already would have known, that's not where they would put

Schreiner remained in the riding overnight Friday, with plans to tour the Orillia Farmers' Market Saturday morning with Powell and Stubbins.

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lived in a different era'

Last month, on the eve of his criminal trial that the judge noted would have "inevitably led to a conviction," he pleaded guilty and apologized to the judge then fell into his

chair, weeping uncontrollably. Outside of court, a 90-year-old victim who could barely walk, hugged the Crown attorney after following the case in the courts for seven years.

Other victims left the court

angry.
"It's not right. Why should we have to pay a civil lawyer and go through the courts again to try to Hugh Brown, a grieving widower who loaned Hatzipetrakos \$90,000. "And where is all that money

now? Buried in a treasure chest in his basement?' "He picked on seniors who lived

in a different era — they trust," said Marlis Depuis, whose father, suffering from Alzheimer's disease, was duped. "In their day, a handshake was good enough. ... Hatzipetrakos got a pretty good deal."

Victims were told Hatzipetra-kos would be free after serving only one-third of his time, but he could be out even earlier if he can prove he has employment.



An elderly victim of Midland fraudster Perry Hatzipetrakos leaves the Barrie courthouse with her lawyer, Thursday, after he was taken away in handcuffs. He was sentenced to two years in jail for defrauding 34 people, mainly seniors.

Orillia and Area Forecast

Today



Low: 17° Chance of thundershowers (pop 40%).

Today: Normal High

Normal Low

Tomorrow



25.5°

14.7

Monday



High: 30 Low: 20° Mainly sunny Winds westerly 15 km/h.

Tuesday Wednesday



High: 26 Low: 199 Mainly cloudy with scattered showers (pop 70%). Light



Low: 16° Cloudy with light rain (pop 70%). Light winds.

tomorrow

25/19

19/9 29/18

27/18

23/15

7/3 27/15 26/22

29/18

29/21

31/21

28/19 20/11

23/15

22/16

30/17

22/15

23/14

24/11

17/8

17/10

16/11

29/16

26/17

17/10

22/14

22/15 27/20 31/27

16/10 36/26

18/8

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF UNION GAS LIMITED

Union Gas Limited has applied for approval to change its gas commodity, storage and transportation rates effective January 1, 2016.

Learn more. Have your say

Union Gas Limited has applied to change its rates to better reflect how it supplies natural gas to its customers. The proposed changes include the

A change in the reference price used to set rates on a quarterly basis for a majority of its customers; and A change to how it allocates costs to the different types of customers

that it serves An average residential customer would see the following annual bill impact,

but these impacts would only start in 2018: Residential Customer - Service Area Approximate Bill Impact Southern Ontario (Windsor to Hamilton Decrease of \$20 Northern Delivery Area (North Bay to Kapuskasing) Increase of \$26 All Other Delivery Areas Decrease of \$1.50 - \$51.50

Other customers in Union Gas Limited's service area, including businesses,

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Union Gas

We will question Union Gas on the case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent the customers of Union Gas. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the changes that Union Gas has requested in this application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in

- You can review the application filed by Union Gas on the OEB's website now. hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by August 25, 2015 or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.

 At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons
- on our website.

LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0181**. To learn more about this hearing. find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0181** from the list on the OEB website: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **August 25, 2015**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and e-mail address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



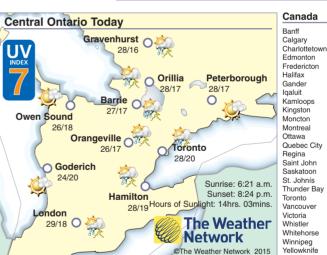
SMOKETS HELPLINE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

TOLL-FREE

...32.0°/1995 Record Low ... 4.5°/1982 Full Moon

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now. Check the 14 day trend





United Sta	tes	tomorrow
Atlanta	p.cloudy	32/22
Atlantic City	sunny	29/22
Boston	sunny	31/22
Buffalo	sunny	30/20
Chicago	sunny	34/21
Cleveland	tshowers	30/22
Dallas	p.cloudy	36/25
Denver	tstorms	32/16
Detroit	tstorms	32/21
Honolulu	tshowers	28/25
Houston	tshowers	34/24
Indianapolis	sunny	33/19
Los Angeles	sunny	36/21
Las Vegas	sunny	41/29
Miami	tstorms	32/26
Minneapolis	tstorms	29/19
Myrtle Beach	sunny	28/24

New Offeatis	เอเบททอ	
New York	m.sunny	3
Orlando	tshowers	3
Philadelphia	sunny	3
Phoenix	sunny	4
Pittsburgh	p.cloudy	3
Salt Lake City	p.cloudy	3
San Francisco	p.cloudy	2
Seattle	sunny	2
Tucson	m.sunny	4
Washington	sunny	3
The World	tom	orro
Amsterdam	showers	2
Athens	sunny	3
Bangkok	tstorms	3
Beijing		
Deiling	sunny	3
Berlin		2
	sunny	3 3 2 2

30/24	Buenos Aires	p.sunny
31/24	Dublin	p.cloudy
31/25	Hong Kong	tstorms
32/23	Istanbul	sunny
45/31	Jerusalem	sunny
32/20	Kiev	p.cloudy
33/19	Lisbon	m.sunny
22/15	London	p.cloudy
26/14	Madrid	sunny
42/25	Moscow	showers
33/22	New Delhi	tstorms
ow_	Paris	p.cloudy
	Perth	p.cloudy
21/15	Rome	rain
30/25	Singapore	tshowers
33/26	Sydney	p.cloudy
36/23	Tel Aviv	sunny
28/19	Tokyo	showers
20/14	Warsaw	p.cloudy
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CORRECTION

ORILLIA

Incorrect information appeared in the Aug. 6 and 13 City of Orillia Bulletin Board.

Reminder to Taxpayers ad should have read:

1 1/4% added on the first working day

Ratepayers are reminded that penalty is added to all past due instalments or part thereof as follows:

- following the due date and; 1 1/4% per month thereafter beginning
- Sept. 1, 2015.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



August 31, 2015

Brakes • Steering • Alignment

Air Conditioning LUBE. OIL & FILTER \$21.95 + tax (Most Vehicles)



⊜Castrol | Fred & staff would like to say Thank you to their customers 10 Bond Street **705-326-3197**