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CONTACT US

THE PACKET & TIMES
425 West St. N., Suite 15
Orillia, Ontario
L3V 7R2
Hours
Monday-Friday 10:30 am - 5pm
Telephone
705-325-1355
Fax
705-325-4033
Director of Advertising
John Hammill ext. 511244
john.hammill@sunmedia.ca
City Editor
Nathan Taylor ext. 511239
nathan.taylor@sunmedia.ca
Multimedia Editor
Jessica Moyse
jessica.moyse@sunmedia.ca
News Reporters
Robert Bell ext. 511240
roberta.bell@sunmedia.ca
Patrick Bales ext. 511241
patrick.bales@sunmedia.ca
Distribution Manager
April Maclean ext. 511225
april.maclean@sunmedia.ca
Retail Sales
Nicole Parkes ext. 511294
Jocelyn Hill ext. 511296
Marion Hearty ext. 511285
Marty Lockhart ext. 511247
Jim Wenger ext. 511299
Classified Advertising
PLACE IT by phone
1-866-541-6757
PLACE IT online
placeit.classifiedextra.ca
PLACE IT by e-mail
placeit@classifiedextra.ca
PLACE IT by fax
1-866-485-8461



■ **CRIME:** Fortunato gets three years in prison

Casino fraudster sentenced Thursday

TRACY MCLAUGHLIN
Special to the Toronto Sun

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.

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 estimator.

"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

Continued from A1

"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 too 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 Conservative 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 traditional boundaries for 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 it."

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

patrick.bales@sunmedia.ca
twitter.com/patrickbales

■ **COURT**

'He picked on seniors who lived in a different era'

Continued from A1

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

get our money back?" said victim 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 Hatzipetrakos 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.



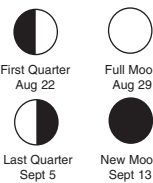
TRACY MCLAUGHLIN/PHOTO

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

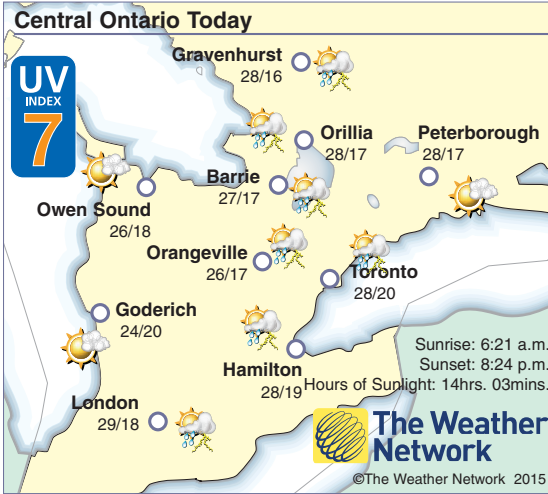
Today	Tomorrow	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
High: 28° Low: 17° Chance of thundershowers (pop 40%).	High: 29° Low: 22° Mainly sunny. Light winds.	High: 30° Low: 20° Mainly sunny. Winds westerly 15 km/h.	High: 26° Low: 19° Mainly cloudy with scattered showers (pop 70%). Light winds.	High: 25° Low: 16° Cloudy with light rain (pop 70%). Light winds.

Today:
Normal High 25.5°
Normal Low 14.7°
Record High 32.0°/1995
Record Low 4.5°/1982



Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.

Check the 14 day trend



Canada	tomorrow
Banff	tstorms 16/6
Calgary	showers 17/9
Charlottetown	m.sunny 25/19
Edmonton	showers 19/9
Fredericton	p.cloudy 29/18
Halifax	p.cloudy 27/18
Gander	showers 23/15
Iqaluit	showers 7/3
Kamloops	p.cloudy 27/15
Kingston	showers 26/22
Moncton	p.cloudy 29/18
Montreal	p.cloudy 29/21
Ottawa	p.cloudy 31/21
Quebec City	p.cloudy 28/19
Regina	showers 20/11
Saint John	p.cloudy 23/15
Saskatoon	showers 18/8
St. John's	showers 22/16
Thunder Bay	p.cloudy 30/17
Toronto	p.cloudy 31/21
Vancouver	p.cloudy 22/15
Victoria	p.cloudy 23/14
Whistler	p.cloudy 24/11
Whitehorse	p.sunny 17/8
Winnipeg	p.cloudy 22/11
Yellowknife	p.cloudy 19/11

United States	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 Orleans	tstorms 30/24
New York	m.sunny 31/24
Orlando	tshowers 31/25
Philadelphia	sunny 32/23
Phoenix	sunny 45/31
Pittsburgh	p.cloudy 32/20
Salt Lake City	p.cloudy 33/19
San Francisco	p.cloudy 22/15
Seattle	sunny 26/14
Tucson	m.sunny 42/25
Washington	sunny 33/22
The World	tomorrow
Amsterdam	showers 21/15
Athens	sunny 30/25
Bangkok	tstorms 33/26
Beijing	sunny 36/23
Berlin	tstorms 28/19
Brussels	showers 20/14

Buenos Aires	p.sunny 17/10
Dublin	p.cloudy 16/11
Hong Kong	tstorms 29/28
Istanbul	sunny 32/25
Jerusalem	sunny 37/25
Kiev	p.cloudy 29/16
Lisbon	m.sunny 26/17
London	p.cloudy 20/13
Madrid	sunny 31/19
Moscow	showers 17/10
New Delhi	tstorms 32/27
Paris	p.cloudy 22/14
Perth	p.cloudy 22/15
Rome	rain 27/20
Singapore	tshowers 31/27
Sydney	p.cloudy 16/10
Tel Aviv	sunny 36/26
Tokyo	showers 28/25
Warsaw	p.cloudy 32/19

CORRECTION



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

Reminder to Taxpayers ad should have read:

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

- 1 ¼% added on the first working day following the due date and;
- 1 ¼% per month thereafter beginning Sept. 1, 2015.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



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August 31, 2015

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