

Con man Beaupre to be freed

By Frank Armstrong

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Local News - A Kingston-area man who used a series of telemarketing scams to cheat investors across North America out of millions of dollars will be released from jail next month after serving one-sixth of his 42-month sentence.

Guy Paul Beaupre, 41, of Godfrey was sent to a King-

ston area penitentiary on Sept. 3 after pleading guilty to five counts of fraud over \$5,000 in relation to his role in four franchise-style firms in Kingston and the Toronto area.

Beaupre was also ordered to pay his victims \$2.7 million in restitution.

But with his release to a halfway house only one month away and no one paid back as promised, some of Beaupre's victims fear the justice system has failed them, and that they will never receive their money.

"Son of a gun. Crime pays," Muriel Cassidy, one of Beaupre's Toronto victims, said yesterday on hearing of his pending release from prison.

Cassidy and her husband, Doug Moon, lost \$10,000 in 2002 to Toronto-based ISDI, a silver vending machine company Beaupre ran that never sent them anything after cashing her cheque.

Beaupre will be released on day parole April 3. In addition to the usual conditions imposed on federal inmates, such as obeying the law, keeping the peace and staying in Canada, Beaupre must provide full financial disclosure to his parole officer.

He also can't work soliciting investors or in a business where he has control over investors' funds, and he's forbidden to associate with criminals.

Commenting on the decision to grant parole, parole board member Christie Jefferson said Beaupre's special conditions were imposed because of the nature of his crimes.

"Your offences involved a series of frauds in which you duped citizens into investing in various enterprises you were operating," Jefferson wrote.

On Nov. 3, Beaupre will switch to full parole under the same conditions as his day parole, except he'll be allowed to live in his own accommodations.

He will be supervised by a correctional officer until the expiry of his sentence on March 2, 2008.

Under provisions of the federal Corrections and Conditional Release Act, the National Parole Board had to grant Beaupre accelerated day and full parole, parole board spokeswoman Carol Sparling told The Whig-Standard.

The act stipulates that the board must review inmates at their earliest eligibility, which is one-sixth of their sentence for day parole and one-third of their sentence for full parole.

Under the act, violence is the only factor which can hinder an inmate's right to accelerated parole.

If there's no reasonable grounds to believe the offender is likely to commit a violent offence before his sentence

expires, he must be released.

"In the case of Guy [Paul] Beaupre, the board, after the review of the case, found no evidence that the offender is likely to commit a violent offence prior to the expiry date of the sentence," Sparling said.

Beaupre's parole review decision document revealed he was convicted of driving with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol in his blood in 1996.

An impaired driving charge was stayed in 1990 and an assault charge was withdrawn after a girlfriend who alleged he pushed her refused to press charges, the document says.

Victims like Cassidy and Toronto's Vladimir Kolinitchenko, from whom Beaupre stole \$1.2 million in a 1999 payphone scam, don't expect Beaupre will abide by his conditions since police

uncovered evidence he defied bail conditions last year that forbade him from participating in any franchise schemes.

"He's just going to go right out and start up again," Cassidy said.

Beaupre's scam plunged Cassidy and Moon into deep debt, but the damage to Kolinitchenko was much worse.

Kolinitchenko, a former Russian military captain who had made a fortune in business in the Soviet Union, came to Canada to launch a new business and a new life.

In a remarkable riches to rags story, Beaupre took everything from Kolinitchenko, after promising him an exclusive 300-payphone territory. Kolinitchenko's wife has since left him and he now works nights hefting skids of bread for \$10 an hour in the warehouse of a Toronto bakery.

He has remained in Canada for the last five years in hopes of recovering his money, but said upon hearing of Beaupre's pending release yesterday he may soon give up and go home.

"What can we do? That's it," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

When a Kingston judge ordered Beaupre in September to pay restitution to his victims, Kolinitchenko and Cassidy believed they were finally going to be compensated.

They thought the parole board might not let him out of jail if he hadn't fulfilled his promise to compensate his victims, but that hope was destroyed yesterday.

"This is not just," Kolinitchenko said. "Canada is a good country for crooks."

The last hope for Beaupre's victims appears to be Toronto lawyer Michael Webster, who represents about 160 victims of Kingston-based jewelry distributor Global Silver and candy machine franchisor The Blue Corp., Universal Payphone Systems and ISDI.

While the restitution order may turn out to be a useless piece of paper, Beaupre's guilty plea should have weight with judges when Webster starts going to the courts to try to force Beaupre to pay up.

"The reality is this, for him, is just the beginning of a long and very arduous process," Webster said. "I would say it's a matter of time until his victims get something."

He couldn't talk about the specifics of the case, but spoke generally.

When a judge orders somebody to do something and they don't obey it, they can be forced to appear for an examination in which they must disclose the location of their assets.

"If the answers are not satisfactory, you can go before a judge and argue he is in contempt of court and contempt of court is jail time," Webster said, adding that Beaupre's family members could also be brought under examination.

If they provide misleading answers, they could also risk jail time, he said.

"Ultimately, Beaupre is going to have to pay back some money," he said.

Beaupre wasn't the only person charged in relation to the four telemarketing scams.

Three other people are still before the courts. Glen James Lancaster, 33, of Kingston, Jocelyn Capsuyen, 36, of Toronto and Gilles Landry, 27, of Newmarket also face a slew of fraud charges.

Lancaster and Capsuyen each face three charges of fraud over \$5,000 and three charges of conspiracy to commit fraud over \$5,000 for their alleged roles in Global Silver and The Blue Corp., as well as ISDI. Landry faces a charge of fraud over \$5,000 and one charge of conspiracy to commit fraud over \$5,000 for his alleged role in ISDI.

Lancaster, who has told The Whig-Standard he's only a salesman, must also deal with a charge of breaching his bail conditions.

All three are scheduled to appear in court in April.

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