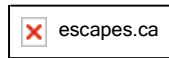


Surrey man gets nine years for molesting 10 'vulnerable' boys

BY TOM ZYTARUK, SURREY NOW APRIL 17, 2013



Surrey child molestor James Cardno, 48, will be sentenced tomorrow after pleading guilty to 15 charges involving 10 boys.

Photograph by: Surrey RCMP photo, Surrey NOW

WARNING: Graphic content

A Surrey man who sexually molested 10 young boys in his Whalley apartment and in a hotel room in Ecuador has been sentenced to nine years in a federal penitentiary and is barred for life from parks and other public places where children are likely to be.

"Karma's going to have your ass," an enraged woman yelled from the courtroom gallery as a sheriff handcuffed James Cardno, 48, and led him away on Tuesday afternoon. Others clapped.

The elevator repairman, who lived in Whalley and grew up in North Delta, pleaded guilty to 15 of 31 charges related to molesting the boys and making child pornography.

Crown prosecutor Winston Sayson argued for a sentence of eight to nine years while defence lawyer Patrick Beirne argued for a prison term of five to seven years.

Before passing sentence on Cardno, Surrey provincial court Judge Peder Gulbransen determined it's "unlikely he can be rehabilitated."

His victims were eight to 17 years old and his crimes against them, including oral sex and sodomy, occurred between 1993 and 2010. Eight were Surrey children. The other two were Cardno's foster children in Ecuador.

There is a publication ban on any information that could reveal any of the victims' identities.

Cardno molested the Ecuadoran boys in a hotel room in South America after telling them it was a "Canadian custom" to play in the nude and pose naked for photos.

He molested the Surrey boys in his apartment in Whalley.

Gulbransen noted the children were vulnerable, "often coming from broken families," and that the incidents of "unlawful touching" numbered "probably in the hundreds."

In one case, Sayson said, two of the boys had stayed on in Cardno's apartment while he raped a third, to provide their fellow victim with "moral support."

"It's almost over, it's almost over," they told the boy.

Gulbransen lamented that such victims often succumb to despair or turn to drugs or alcohol for solace.

"The psychological wounds will probably fester for years," he said.

The Surrey RCMP's Child Abuse and Sexual Offence Unit launched a year-long investigation — with more than 50 officers involved in the case — after one of Cardno's victims ended up in a psychiatric ward, haunted by the abuse.

Police then found hundreds "or perhaps" thousands of photographs of the child molester and his victims engaged in perverse acts, Gulbransen noted. Cardno had stuffed his stash of child porn in a briefcase and put that into a safe inside a detached garage at his 74-year-old mother's home in Surrey.

Beirne told the court that Cardno's family had suspected something was off with him, but did not know about his crimes. He likened Cardno to a brick wall they couldn't get through.

Sayson called his Cardno's crimes "abhorrent beyond words.

"The sentence of this court should leave no doubt that a significant penitentiary sentence awaits those who chose to abuse children," Sayson said. "The Crown commends the courage of the victims who told their stories to the police. The Surrey RCMP conducted a thorough and diligent investigation."

Const. Janice Roberts was the file coordinator in the police investigation.

"We're just pleased with the outcome," Roberts said after the sentencing. "It's good to see justice served, for the victims' sake."

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