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Former Anglican minister denies allegations by women

Man on trial in Sault Ste. Marie this week

Posted By LINDA RICHARDSON, SUN MEDIA

Posted 11 months ago

SAULT STE. MARIE — A former Anglican minister Monday repeatedly denied allegations from five middle-aged women that he molested them decades ago when they were children.

"It's not true." "That did not happen." "I never exposed myself, ever." "That's ridiculous." "Nothing like that ever happened." "No way." "Definitely not."

These phrases were among the many responses Kenneth Gibbs gave his lawyer when questioned about the various incidents the women described to a Sault Ste. Marie judge last week

The 76-year-old Belleville resident insisted that he didn't touch these girls, but admitted to three incidents involving another girl when he took the stand in his own defence.

The three incidents are the same ones Gibbs confessed to police during a videotaped interview in October 2005 -- an interview that was played in court Friday.

Gibbs is on trial for sex offences alleged to have occurred in Chapleau and Elliot Lake in the 1960s and 1970s.

He has pleaded not guilty to six charges of indecent assault.

At an earlier court appearance, he pleaded guilty to three counts of indecent assault.

The identity of the complainants is protected by a court-ordered publication ban.

Gibbs served as minister in Chapleau from 1966 to 1971 and in Elliot Lake from 1971 to 1980.

When they testified the six women talked about incidents that occurred in the church, the rectory or their homes.

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Teen Crash in Capreol
HEEEEELLLLLOOOO...can't believe people are even arguing about this. These two kids must have just stole the keys from their parents to these modes of transportation (sense the sarcasm?) A person MUST have a valid G2/G driver's licence for ATV's or an M2/M motorcycle licence for motorcycles to opera

Sudbury Youth Basketball League Fall Registration
Sudbury Youth Basketball Fall session registration Lo Ellen Park Playground September 8th & 9th 6-8 pm Cedar Park Playground New Sudbury September 15 & 16 6-8 pm Registration for our fall league for boys and girls aged 8 to 13. One game and practice per week for 10 week

32nd Annual "Take Back the Night" Rally and March
Sudbury, ON, Thursday, September 16, 2010- The Sudbury Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, a non-profit organization, will be hosting the 32nd Annual "Take Back the Night" march on Thursday, September 16, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at Tom Davies Square. The event will begin with a rally of speakers and en

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Superior Court Justice Edward Koke heard about a "tickle game" that Gibbs would play with one of the complainants

during family visits to his church rectory in Elliot Lake. "It was a secret game, a special game I wasn't to tell anyone about," the 40-year-old woman said.

The Crown witness said she was about six or seven when the minister at St. Peter the Apostle Church would have her sit on his lap.

Gibbs would put his hand in her pants and touch her vagina, she testified.

"He referred to it as tickling, but it was more like stroking, caressing," she said, estimating they had played the game about 40 times.

"I never played such a game," Gibbs told his lawyer Andrew Berthelot on Monday. "I never told her not to tell anyone. So that's not true."

Gibbs said he recalled one incident involving the girl and her sister where he "snapped the waist band" of their clothes.

"It was just a funny little thing to do," he insisted during cross-examination by prosecutor Mike Kelly.

"You were touching her inappropriately," the assistant Crown attorney charged.

"No, I was just making a little joke," Gibbs responded, maintaining that was the only time anything happened.

He suggested this incident might have spurred a phone call the girl's mother made to one of the church wardens.

The warden indicated the woman had complained about him touching her daughter, Gibbs said.

"I said I didn't recall it and there was no followup," he explained to Berthelot.

"Looking back now it must have been when I snapped their waist bands."

Gibbs also denied that the mother of another young girl had confronted him in Chapleau after her daughter complained he was touching her.

The now 72-year-old woman testified Thursday that she telephoned Gibbs at St. John's Anglican Church, warned him that she was going to call the archbishop, and if he wasn't removed within two months she would call police.

The witness said she immediately called the archbishop, who questioned her in detail about the allegation.

"I said I want Rev. Gibbs out of here now and he said he would look into the matter," she told the court, adding Gibbs was gone in about two months.

When he testified Monday, Gibbs said he had never spoken to the woman.

"There was no telephone in the church during my term of office," he said, insisting there had been no complaints to the archbishop's office about him.

During his testimony, Gibbs admitted to three incidents when he said he inappropriately touched one girl in Elliot Lake.

The first occurred when the girl's too-large panties fell off and he touched her vagina before putting her pants back on.

There was no digital penetration, he said, disagreeing with the 45-year-woman's evidence about what had occurred.

He also denied putting the girl's hand on his penis and having her masturbate him.

Gibbs also described two incidents where he said he touched the girl's inner thigh.

During cross-examination, Kelly pointed him to the police video where he indicated he put his hands between the girl's legs.

Gibbs said he didn't remember where he touched her, then admitted he may have touched her vaginal area.

"You put a different gloss on it (today) by saying the thigh area," Kelly suggested.

"Perhaps, I did," Gibbs replied.

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the way we were ...
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2912 Sudbury Irish RC(Army) Cadets Wednesday Training Meeting

Attention Young Adults 18- 29

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF GREATER SUDBURY



He pleaded guilty to three counts of indecent assault at an eariler court date.....yet he insists the other 6 never happened.....once a pervert always a pervert.....good luck with god your holiness.

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Post #1 By [kazak](#), 11 months ago | 1 Votes | Vote:



i remember being at a street festival near newmarket a few years back ... there was this 'honest to goodness' biker near the side of the road. he looked the part of an old rounder (weathered and past trusting a soul) ; i finally said a little hello and got the same back - i wonder, are we putting our faith in the right bunch

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Post #2 By [mary mary](#), 11 months ago | 1 Votes | Vote:



"man about town" : NO there should not be a statute of limitations on this kind of thing.... back then these kinds of things weren't talked about, just like spousal abuse, child abuse, alcoholism etc.... And this story reports that there were mothers that complained about this specific minister when these Occurances happened, and guess what the church covered it up and sent him to another parish where I'm sure he abused other kids. It is traumatic to go through something like this when you are a child, what child deserves that kind of treatment.... how would you deal with it if it had happened to you??? I hate the word bandwagon, no one wants to jump on a bandwagon and admit to being molested, it's not something that they are proud of, usually its the opposite that's why it is hard for these women to come forward... I didn't read once in this story about any financial settlement, so jumping to conclusions about why these women are charging him is way off base. As well he admitted to indecent conduct 3 times with one young girl..... Hmmmm who's more credible... a confessed pedophile? Get a life!

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Post #3 By [leeb](#), 11 months ago | 2 Votes | Vote:



I absolutley agree leeb. Victims should be aware that it's NEVER too late to report this kind of crime. It's often the passage of time that gives them the confidence they need to talk about it.

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Post #4 By [lanny](#), 11 months ago | 0 Votes | Vote:



A statute of limitations would force people to come forward in a fair and timely fashion. Dredging up something that may have happened decades before only clouds the credibility of the "victims". The excuse of it taking time to gain confidence is bunk. If you know you are up against a deadline, you'll make a decision. Not wait decades so innuendo and circumstantial evidence can be added to the issue.

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Post #5 By [Man About Town](#), 11 months ago | 0 Votes | Vote:

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