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Domm unswerving in drive at justice system

BY CARL NELSON
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Gord Domm is as unrepentant as ever. Domm, the keystone in the Citizens' Coalition Favoring More Effective Criminal Sentences, sits atop his apartment building — he lives in a penthouse suite — and contemplates the criminal justice system below that he believes with unswerving certainty is failing Canadians.

Despite a contempt of court conviction and a \$4,000 fine (currently under appeal) he is still passionate about his beliefs. Since retirement from the Ontario Provincial Police in 1988, Domm has been busy attempting to right wrongs, as he perceives them, fight his way through court and still stand up for the coalition.

Because the appeal is in the written argument stage — the appeal will be heard before justices of the Ontario Court of Appeal — Domm won't discuss details.

However, while the details remain before the judicial system, he is vocal about the legal system, violent crime and punishment, especially his own.

And he remains defiant. "I'm not sorry at all."

What Domm isn't sorry about is the mailing of prohibited information about Karla Homolka's sentencing. Homolka is the estranged and imprisoned former wife of Paul Bernado who remains in jail waiting trial in connection with the murders of two St. Catharines teens and numerous sexual assault charges from Toronto.

Domm's act led to two contempt of court charges and \$2,000 fines for each charge.

He has paid \$1,000 of the fine. The rest of the fine is in limbo pending the outcome of the appeal. And he vows to take it to the Supreme Court, if he has to.

"That's how committed I am to this issue."

Domm's opinions, he admits after some



STILL FIGHTING: Guelph's Gord Domm continues to fight a criminal justice system he believes is failing Canadians.

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thought, have been colored by his career as a police officer, especially in the last decade. Dealing with victims and their survivors left him wondering about what he describes as the eroding effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

"We've shifted away from the crime to the offender in sentencing," Domm said.

And that has led to more lenient sentencing.

But Domm's goal is to protect society more — by imposing stiff minimum sentences for violent or gun-related crimes — and get the criminal off the street.

By now, Domm's views are well known. He has captured a lot of headlines and continues to attract attention from foreign press including the London Mirror, one of the first newspapers to print information learned in the Homolka case.

"They're thinking about doing a story on me," he said.

In the meantime, while the intense media focus appears to have shifted away from Domm, he remains active behind the scenes with his coalition.

Other members in other towns and cities have taken up the banner. Domm has had the distinction of making guest appearances. Next month in London, Domm is the guest speaker at a \$50-a-plate banquet held by the Freedom Party.

And he waits for his appeal to be heard. "This is a test case."

Whatever happens, Domm said he doesn't have the bitter taste of defeat in his mouth.

"I like to think I helped plant the seed that got victims' groups vocal," he said. "Maybe I had gone as far as I could."

"I hope that what I have done will bring appropriate changes to bring back our proud justice system."

NOTE