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GUELPH

Farmer pleads guilty to assaulting 16 children

An 82-year-old farmer has pleaded guilty to molesting 16 children even though he could not recall all of his crimes.

"I don't remember all of these things, but I take their word for it," Amsey Bearinger replied when Justice Norman Douglas asked if he understood the Crown's case against him.

Bearinger said he could not remember each of the incidents because they took place so long ago but he did not wish to dispute the allegations.

"I take their word," he told court in Guelph this week.

Const. Keith Robb said most of the victims were 16 or younger at the time of the assaults. Some were abused several times over a number of years.

"Every opportunity where he was around young people, he would sexually assault them," Robb said.

Bearinger pleaded guilty to 14 counts of indecent assault, two counts of sexual assault and one count of gross indecency.

The crimes involve 13 male victims and three female victims, and occurred between January 1967 and August 1986.

Douglas opted to hear the extensive facts when Bearinger returns to court for sentencing on Aug. 21.

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