

Ex-policeman jailed over child porn

Home computer
used to view
'graphic' material

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A former city police officer showed no emotion on Wednesday as he was sentenced to a year in jail for accessing and possessing child pornography on his home computer three years ago.

Paul Roger Villecourt was also placed on probation for three years.

"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the children were abused and used in the making of this child pornography," said Court of Queen's Bench Justice Patrick Sullivan. "It is an insult on their integrity, intellect and self-esteem. The fact several children appeared together, were encouraged and directed to engage in the activity they did, is reprehensible."

The evidence included 178 images and 14 videos of kiddie porn.

Villecourt, 37, who pleaded guilty

to the two charges in May as he was about to face a seven-day jury trial, will provide a DNA sample and be registered as a sex offender for 10 years.

He was ordered not to visit a playground, school ground or other such place without his wife being present.

Villecourt also faced a third charge of distributing child pornography, but it was dropped after he admitted to the other charges, which covered the period from May 2006 to June 2007.

"The majority of the images were posing. Some were very graphic posing,

close-up shots of very young children, boys and girls," prosecutor Jenny Rees told the judge. "About 10 per cent of the images involved sex acts with young children, very young, and older between 12 and 13. Some also involved infants."

A report by forensic psychologist Patrick Baillie suggested that while Villecourt had taken responsibility, he was still minimizing his actions.

Defence lawyer Tonii Roulston said her client's actions had not only cost him his career as a police officer, but he lost another job as a result of the charges and now works as a forklift operator to support his wife

and young child.

"When you look at these pictures, they are extremely offensive . . . shocking," said Roulston. "He's responsible and should be punished. But step back — he's not in the photos and not responsible for producing the photos."

Villecourt told the psychologist he initially viewed the photos as a curiosity, but there was no evidence he was a porn addict and does not show any pedophilic tendencies.

The officer resigned after being charged.