

SUBURBAN EXCLUSIVE

TV reporter Domenic Fazioli opens up about “false” charges

By Mike Cohen
The Suburban

For more than 15 years, Domenic Fazioli gained notice as one of the best reporters in the business, covering mainly the crime beat for Global Television. Then last spring his successful career came to a screeching halt, with headlines declaring that he had been charged with assault following an alleged domestic dispute.

The charges were false and there is nothing more Fazioli wanted to do at that time than to tell this to the same media he worked side by side with. But under instructions from his legal counsel he had to remain silent. Earlier this month the charges were thrown out of court. While Fazioli remains a happily married father of two, the damage was done. In an exclusive interview with *The Suburban*, Fazioli would not talk about his current status, but it's believed he parted ways with Global. He's a talent some media outlet should grab.

I have known Fazioli from the very start of his broadcast career. He also served as Global's de facto sports reporter. I will always be grateful for the lift he gave my late father Larry only a few months before he died. Baseball icon Gary Carter had passed away and Fazioli came to see me about the City of Côte Saint-Luc possibly naming a field after Carter. My dad – a long-time journalist himself – was a huge Global fan, so I put him on the phone together. When they finished Fazioli suggested that he possibly go see my dad, bring him to the park where Carter often visited and interview him. Well my dad was so thrilled. At a time in his life when he was down, he appreciated being made to feel



Domenic Fazioli and his wife Patricia.

important.

Fazioli describes the last few months as “extremely difficult,” noting that his life was turned upside down. “The charges were completely false and full of baloney,” he said. “Unfortunately, I could not speak out because I was told not to. Trust me, I wanted to.”

The TV journalist explained that he and his family have been harassed by an individual for several years. Fazioli explained he could not elaborate who the person is. “I am sure people came to quick conclusions,” he says. “My wife and I stuck together. We really grew as a family, that's for sure.”

Fazioli and his wife Patricia have been together for more than 10 years.

Fazioli has been linked to some of the biggest news stories in Global Montreal's history. Earlier this year, he captured images of Francis Boucher, the son of former Hells Angels kingpin Maurice “Mom” Boucher, as he gave himself up to police after being released from prison accidentally. “I got a tip,” he said,

“so I hopped in my car and waited outside Bordeaux prison in the middle of the night. I waited more than two hours, got the images, wrote the story, and rushed to Global's studios to do a live hit for the Morning Show. It was awesome. I spent three hours on-air talking with host Camille Ross about it. I'll never forget how excited we both were. It was great television!”

The other big scoop in Fazioli's TV news career came in July 2006. That summer, he received “national” praise for his investigative story on Karla Homolka. He filmed the Ontario schoolgirl killer as she went for a walk in her east-end Montreal neighbourhood. “I still get phone calls and e-mails about that one,” Fazioli says with a smile. “I remember the date. It was July 25. Boy, was that a rush!”

Fazioli admits he misses that “rush” and says he's ready to “get back on the horse.” He said he received a lot of support from family and friends. “I just want to say a big thank you to everyone,” he says. “It meant a lot.”

Fazioli spent a lot of time with his 76-year-old father Cosmo. In May, the elder Fazioli was rushed to hospital following a complication with his kidney. He spent several weeks under close watch. Thankfully, the problem was taken care of and dad is currently recuperating at home. Three years ago the younger Fazioli made headlines when he became part of a kidney exchange program which saved his father's life. It involved three people with kidney disease and three healthy donors, pairs from Quebec, British Columbia and Ontario. ■

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Mount Royal candidates meet at Bialik HS

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

A panel discussion will be held at Bialik High School in Côte St. Luc tonight, 7 p.m. Sept. 30, featuring Conservative candidate Robert Libman, Liberal candidate Anthony Housefather and NDP candidate Mario Jacinto Rimbaio.

That is in addition to another can-

didates meeting being held the next day, 7 p.m., Oct. 1, at TMR town hall.

Maureen Baron, head of school at JPPS-Bialik, said the Bialik evening will feature a question and answer period.

“It is open to the public,” she added.

Baron explained that each candidate will have a maximum five-minute opening statement, and they will then take questions.

“Six of our classes have already prepared questions that will be presented, and the audience will be invited to also ask questions,” she pointed out. The school's Citizenship Education Program was the impetus for the event.

“Our seniors in Secondary V could conceivably be voting in the next provincial and federal election,” Baron said. Bialik is located at 6500 Kildare Road in Côte St. Luc. ■

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