

Cleaned-up Igor Kenk back in court

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At left: Alleged bike theft ring leader, Igor Kenk, leaves the Don Jail after posting bail, Aug. 2, 2008. At right: Kenk leaves Old City Hall courthouse on Aug. 6, 2008.

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Dale Anne Freed

STAFF REPORTER

A newly dapper Igor Kenk walked unnoticed through a clutch of photographers and reporters this morning as he made his way to a court appearance on bike theft and drug charges at Old City Hall.

But it wasn't Kenk's legal woes that had court watchers talking it was the bike shop owner's makeover from ragamuffin to runway model look-alike.

The lanky and clean-shaven Kenk, his hair shorn and dyed dark brown, was wearing a navy polo sweater and grey trousers as he walked into the courtroom and sat in the last row, waiting for his name to be called.

Kenk, 49, was arrested last month and charged with 58 offences related to bike theft and narcotics.

Last week, Justice Bruce Young granted bail set at \$275,000 to the bearded, long-haired bicycle shop owner, ordering him to live with a surety under house arrest.

Kenk's bail was set at \$250,000 for provincial charges related to bike theft, \$10,000 for the federal charges including 21 drug offences, and \$15,000 surety bail to be split collectively by three supporters.

While under house arrest Kenk won't be able to step outside unless accompanied by one of his three sureties.

Although Kenk was ordered to stay away from his Bicycle Clinic on Queen St. W. and not possess any bikes there was no prohibition against visiting his wife concert pianist Jeanie Chung at their rented Yorkville home.

A self-described former Slovenian police officer, Kenk was also ordered to surrender his passport and any travel documents and was barred from leaving Ontario.

He was also ordered to have a psychological assessment to be assessed for substance abuse and to undergo treatment if required.

Since his arrest, police have recovered some 2,700 bikes found in 12 locations, mostly in downtown garages rented by Kenk.

Bikes were also recovered from his Bicycle Clinic on Queen St. W., and at his Yorkville home on Berryman St.

Police say they also found more than seven kilos in drugs in raids on locations either owned or rented by Kenk, as well as a bronze statue called the "The Centaur" by Toronto sculptor Misha Frid that is valued at between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

At this morning's hearing, co-accused Jean Laveau watched impassively from the courtroom prisoners' box as Kenk was ordered to return to court on Sept. 24.

As the transformed Kenk left the courtroom after his brief appearance, he was followed through the courthouse and out the back door by a bevy of photographers and reporters, finally disappearing in a cab with his surety.

Kenk and Laveau were arrested July 16 after police allege they saw Kenk directing Laveau to cut the locks off two bikes on Queen St. W. using bolt cutters.

Laveau is charged with theft, attempted theft, possession of stolen property, and possession of burglary tools.

Evidence presented at today's hearing is subject to a publication ban.

Laveau was remanded into custody and returns to court tomorrow.