

# Embryo-area man still missing

EMBRO — An 18-year-old Embro-area missing person has still not been located, Const. Ray Dobbs, of the Woodstock OPP detachment, said today.

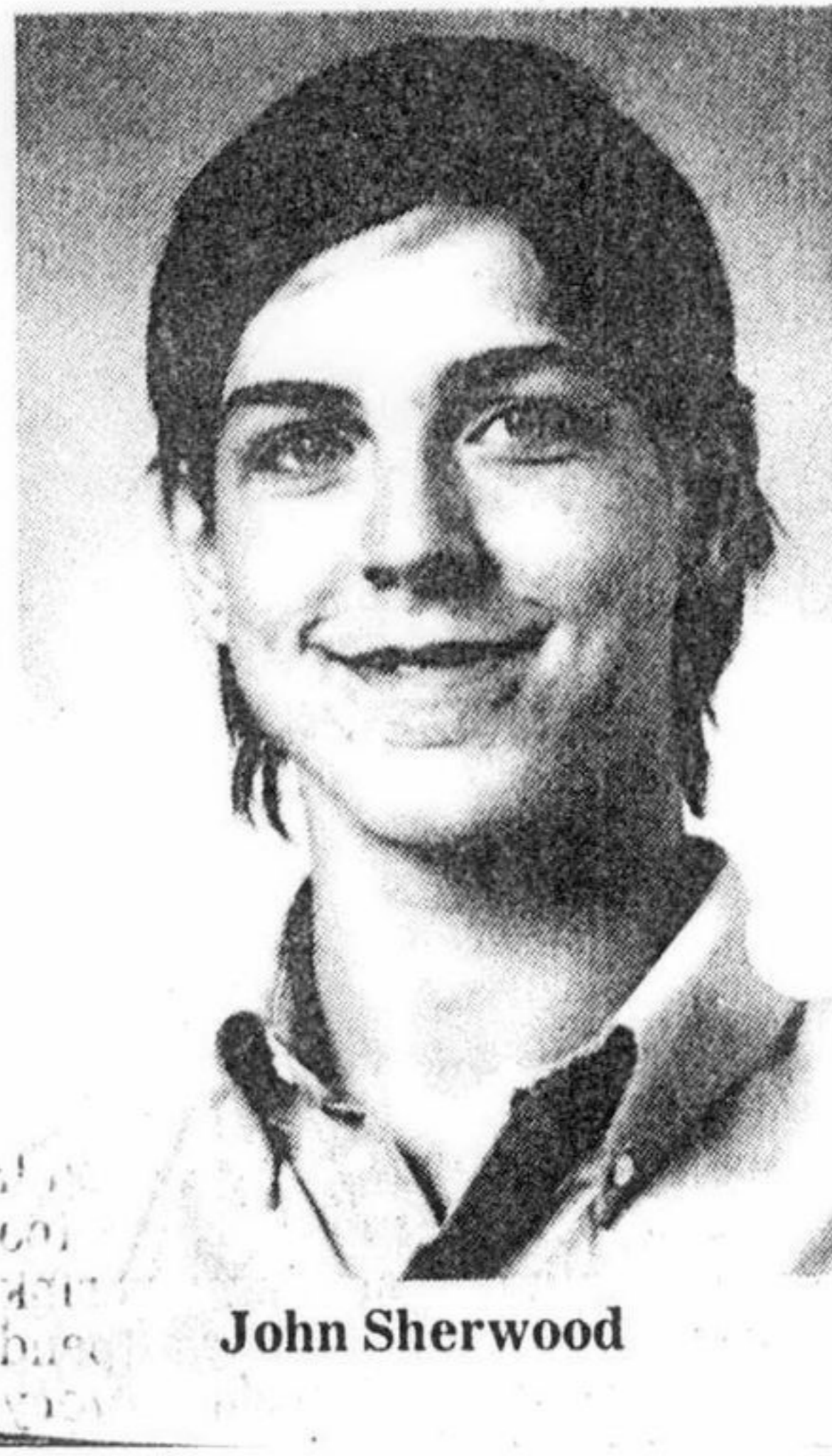
John Sherwood, a Stratford Central secondary student, has been missing since Nov. 10.

Mr. Sherwood has not been at school and has not contacted his family since that time; however police say a friend reported seeing him on a main street in Stratford as late as Nov. 25.

Const. Dobbs said Mr. Sherwood has not broken any laws, but that the family and police are concerned because of an "abrupt change in behavior."

Mr. Sherwood drives a grey, two-door 1986 Chevrolet Cavalier, licence plate 579 RCH. He is described as five feet, six inches tall, with dark brown hair and blue eyes. He weighs between 115 and 120 pounds.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mr. Sherwood is asked to contact the police.



John Sherwood

# Embryo family agonizes over son's disappearance

By SUSAN deRYK of The Sentinel-Review

EMBRO — John Sherwood's family has a special Christmas wish. They want the 18-year-old home for Christmas.

Dorothy Racknor, the teenager's grandmother, says he has been missing for more than a month and the family is very worried.

"If people could only pray for him, those prayers will open doors," she said with tears running down her face.

Until Nov. 12, Sherwood lived with his family in Embro. He was attending Grade 12 at a Stratford high school and working part-time.

At this point Racknor hopes the power of prayer is enough. Ontario Provincial Police, neighbors and family members have been searching for Sherwood since his disappearance and so far there is no word on his whereabouts.

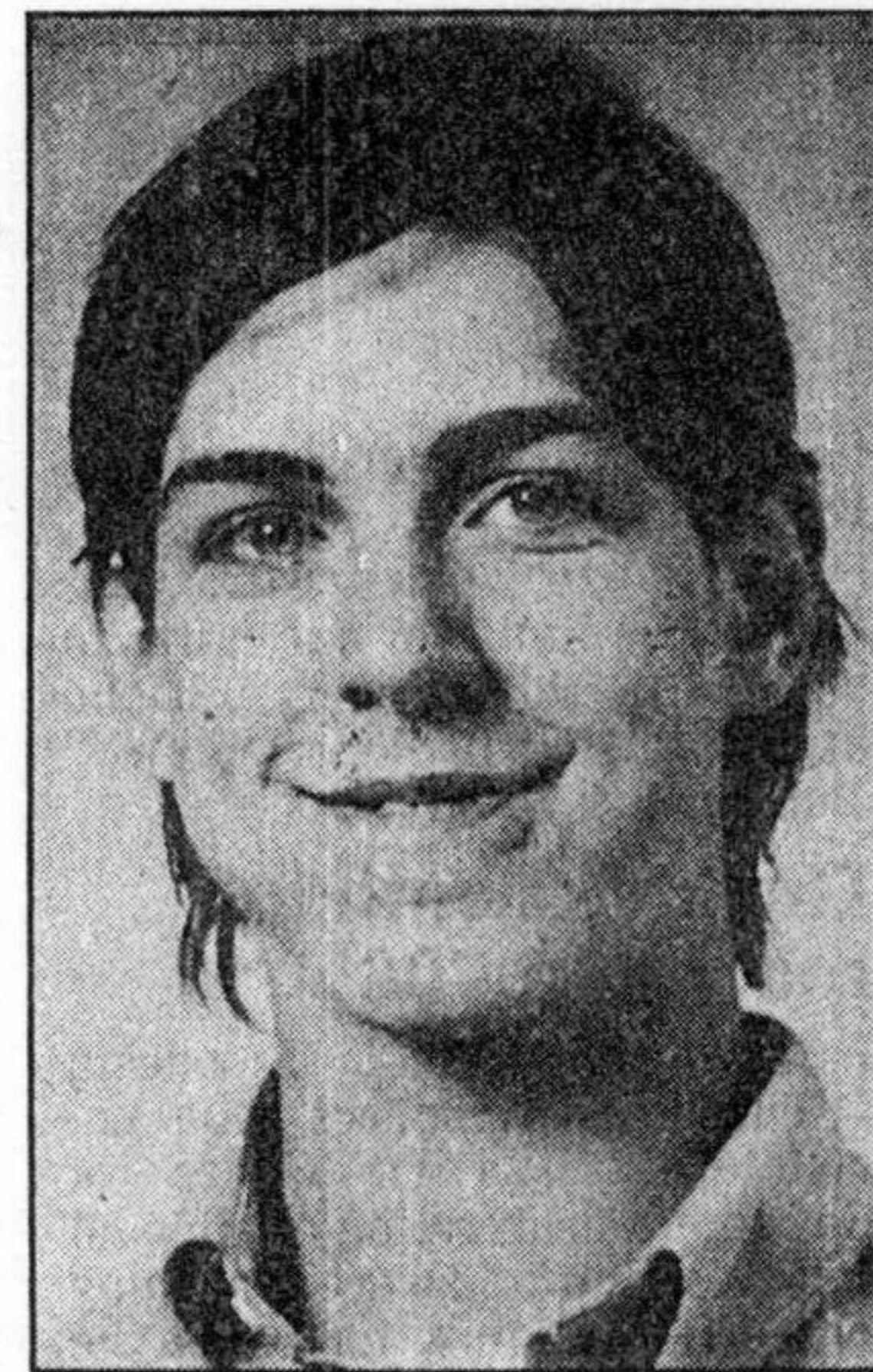
Sherwood is five-foot-six, weighs 115-120 pounds and has dark brown hair and blue eyes.

A poster the family has circulated throughout Oxford and Perth counties says Sherwood was last seen in the Stratford area Nov. 12 with Richard D. Coulter, 38. Sherwood was driving a 1988 grey Chevrolet Cavalier with a red pinstripe, red interior and licence plate 579 RCH.

Two withdrawals were made from Sherwood's bank account shortly before he disappeared. On Nov. 11, money was taken from his account using a bank machine. He made another withdrawal Nov. 12 in person where he took out the remaining funds. The total amount was just under \$400.

### FOUL PLAY NOT SUSPECTED

Police say there have been reports of sightings of Sherwood in the Stratford area as late as Nov. 25. The last time he was seen he was alone.



JOHN SHERWOOD, who lived with his family in Embro until Nov. 12, has been missing for more than a month. He was attending Grade 12 at a Stratford high school and working part-time.

Although Woodstock OPP have registered Sherwood on a Canada-wide system for missing persons, they have no reason to suspect foul play, said Const. Ray Dobbs.

Police are looking for the teenager, but Dobbs said if he is found police would relay the message that his family is concerned about him. As an adult, Sherwood has the right to live wherever he chooses, said Dobbs.

While police search for Sherwood, they are not searching for Coulter.

"Because of information received from the Sherwood family we have looked at his residence but we have no reason to search for him, no one has reported him

missing," Dobbs said. The police would like to speak to Coulter to ask if he knows of Sherwood's whereabouts, said Dobbs.

Sherwood worked for Coulter on a Kintore-area farm recycling wood pallets. He had the job for about a month before he went missing.

"This is out of character for him to do this," said Racknor. "He had no reason to leave."

Racknor said the day before her grandson went missing he put a \$50 deposit down for a school band trip to Washington, D.C. He plays the bass clarinet.

The night before he went missing, Sherwood told his family he was attending a prayer meeting in Kitchener with Coulter. Racknor said it was the first prayer meeting he had attended.

School officials told police it was unusual for Sherwood to miss school or band rehearsal but had started skipping both in the weeks prior to disappearing, said Dobbs.

"We are a very close family," said Racknor. "If he could call he would, he would never put his mother through this type of agony."

Since Sherwood's disappearance, his family has searched the area between where he worked and his house and beyond looking for the teen or clues to his whereabouts. The family has also checked out nearby cities looking for his car, a Cavalier and contacted used car dealers looking for the vehicle.

"We don't know what we're looking for, we just keep looking," she said.

Anyone with information on Sherwood's whereabouts is asked to call the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-800-265-7191.

# Family continues praying for return of missing Embro student

By DAILY SENTINEL-REVIEW STAFF

EMBRO — There is still no word yet on the whereabouts of 18-year-old John Sherwood.

Police say the teenager was reported missing Nov. 12 by his family. He was last seen in the Stratford area where he was a Grade 12 student at a local high school.

A family plea to hear from the teenager or anyone who knows of



Sherwood Racknor.

It has been a trying time for family and friends since he went

missing, she says. Sherwood is the son of Debbie and Gary Sherwood of Embro.

"We just keep on hoping and praying," she said. Along with investigations by the Ontario Provincial Police, the family has been posting pictures of Sherwood throughout Oxford County and the Stratford area.

The poster says that Sherwood was last seen in Stratford Nov. 12

with Richard D. Coulter, 38, who the teenager worked for at the time.

Sherwood was driving a 1988 grey Chevrolet Cavalier with a red pinstripe, red interior and licence plate 579 RCH.

Police say there have been reported sightings of Sherwood in Stratford as late as Nov. 25. Sherwood has been registered on a Canada-wide system as a missing person.

Police say there are not looking for Coulter because no one has reported the man missing, although police would like to talk to him about the teenager's whereabouts.

Sherwood is five-foot-six, 115-120 pound with dark brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information to the teenagers whereabouts is asked to call Ontario Provincial Police at 1-800-265-7191.