

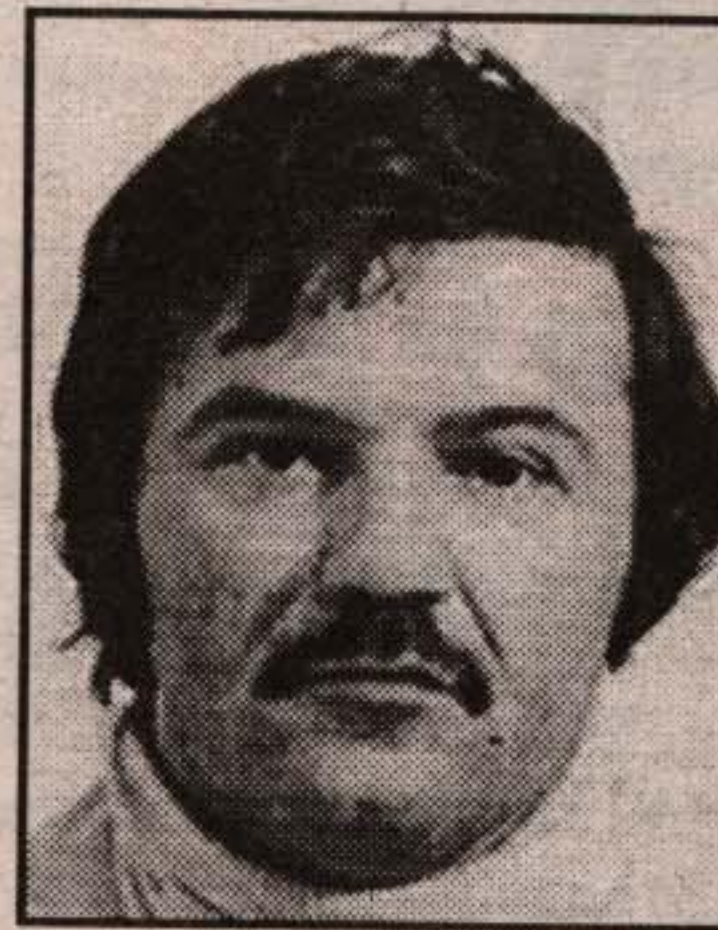
# Community newspapers, police team up to track a child killer



## How about a burger?

The barbecues were working overtime as parent council members (from left) Helen Vandermey, council chair Chuck Kalil and Debbie Moffat were among the volunteers serving up the hamburgers and hot dogs at Harrison Public School's third annual barbecue and open house. The event gave parents a chance to meet their children's teachers.

Photo by Ted Brown



**DENNIS MELVYN HOWE (1977)**

Based on an idea by Barrie Advance lifestyles editor Lori Martin, community newspapers across Canada this week are running a story on suspected child killer Dennis Melvyn Howe who has eluded capture since January, 1983 for the brutal murder of nine-year-old Sharin Morningstar Keenan. Toronto Police suspect Howe, now 57, is living under an assumed identity in a rural part of Canada and that community newspapers are the best way to blanket the entire country with information on Howe that will lead to his arrest.

Is one of Canada's most wanted murder suspects living in your community? That's a question Det. Bob Wilkinson of the Toronto Police Service wants residents across the country to ask themselves during a coast-to-coast community newspaper campaign to catch Dennis Melvyn Howe.

A first-degree murder warrant was issued for Howe in 1983 following the murder of nine-year-old Sharin Morningstar Keenan of Toronto. Keenan went missing from her neighborhood park and her body was found in a rooming house refrigerator nine days later.

Although a warrant was issued for Howe's arrest, he has managed to evade capture for more than 15 years.

Police believe the suspect, now 57, has assumed a new identity and is living in Canada, possibly in a rural area.

"Most of his adult life, he was constantly in contact with the authorities for one reason or another," Wilkinson said. "It seems strange a person like this could just up and vanish."



**DENNIS MELVYN HOWE (police composite)**



Community newspapers across the country are hoping Howe will reappear during their Nowhere to Hide campaign. This week a copy of this story and an age-enhanced photograph of Howe will be distributed to 10 million newspaper readers from coast to coast with the help of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) and the Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA).

It is hoped Howe will be located through the efforts of this campaign. Wilkinson, an investigator with Toronto Police's cold case homicide squad, said Howe, a drifter, is no stranger to "rugged, rural living."

Wilkinson said it wouldn't be a surprise to discover Howe is living in the woods somewhere. "But even if you live in the back woods, you have to come to town once in a while. You have to get some supplies."

At the time of the murder, Toronto Police described Howe as being five feet, nine inches (175 cm) tall, about 165 lb. (75 kg), with wrinkles on his forehead, a gap between his teeth, hairy chest and arms, square shoulders, a scar under his chin and crooked little fingers. Police say he is left-handed, had a deep, jovial laugh, walked quickly, smoked heavily and frequently used the term "Turkeys."

Anyone with information about Howe is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. For more information about Dennis Melvyn Howe, visit the Nowhere to Hide website at <http://www.simcoe.com/news/murder>.

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He may be working as a handyman in a rural area and venturing into town once a week for supplies.

"He was in bad health from the word go, so if he was living the life of a hermit, he would probably require medical attention," the investigator said.

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## What You Said

*'Do you support back-to-work legislation to end Ontario teachers' job action?'*



**Alison Schulze, sales, Georgetown**

"Yes, I feel the teachers should be back at work. A teachers' strike affects more than just the kids. I'm tired of this whole teacher issue."



**Rudolf DeWinter, retired, Georgetown**

"Yes I do, in a certain way. It's taken long enough. The kids should come first no matter what. That goes for everything. Teaching is an essential service."



**Annette Graydon, school bus driver, Terra Cotta**

"No, I don't. From what I've read, (Education Minister) Dave Johnson's reasons aren't valid enough to legislate them back. It smacks of bullying."



**Shawn Wood, worker, Georgetown**

"I think they should go back because it's not fair to the students. To get a job nowadays, you need a lot of education."



**Jordana Kostiuk, student, Georgetown**

"Yes, it's not fair to the students. They're losing so much work. The teachers are selfish, they already had two months off work."

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