

Police having little luck identifying woman found dead in Rockwood

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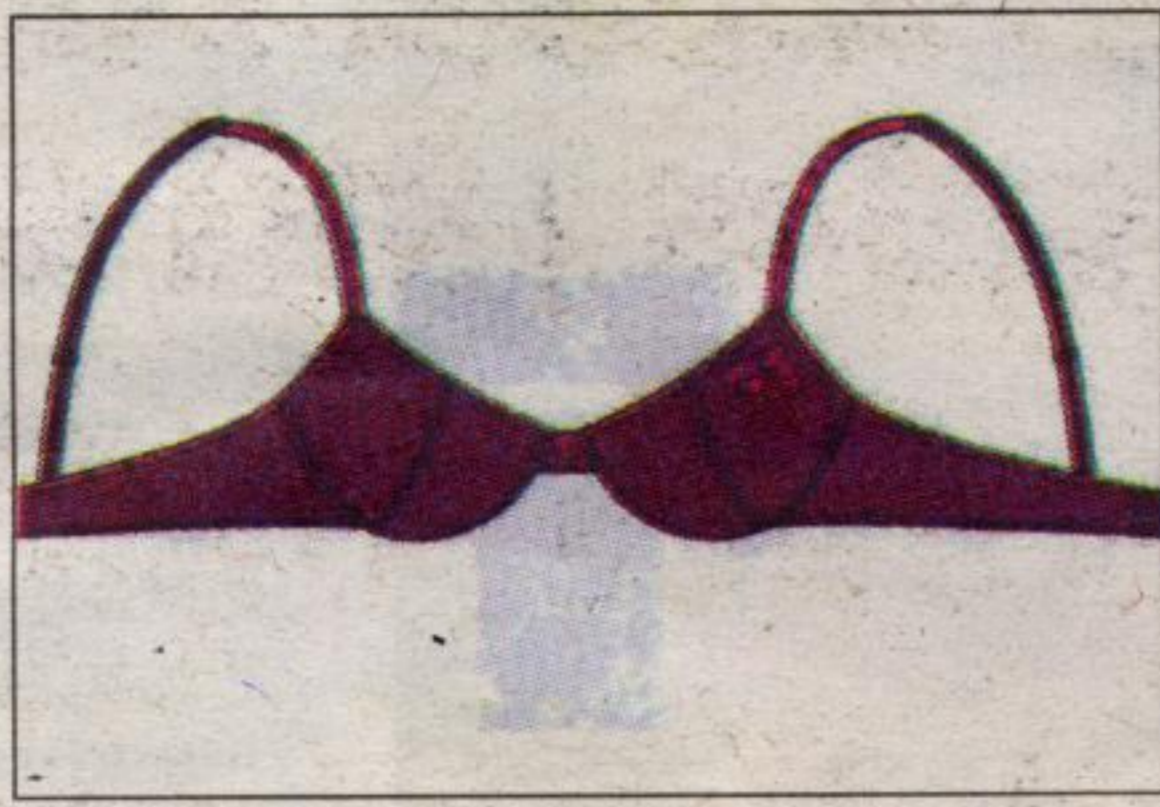
The woman's partially decomposed remains were found covered by a blanket, lying between trees at a rest stop area along Highway 7. A person discovered her while walking in the area Sunday morning.

It is still not known how long her body had been there, what caused her death or what brought her to the spot just three kilometres west of Rockwood. But investigators do know her death is suspicious.

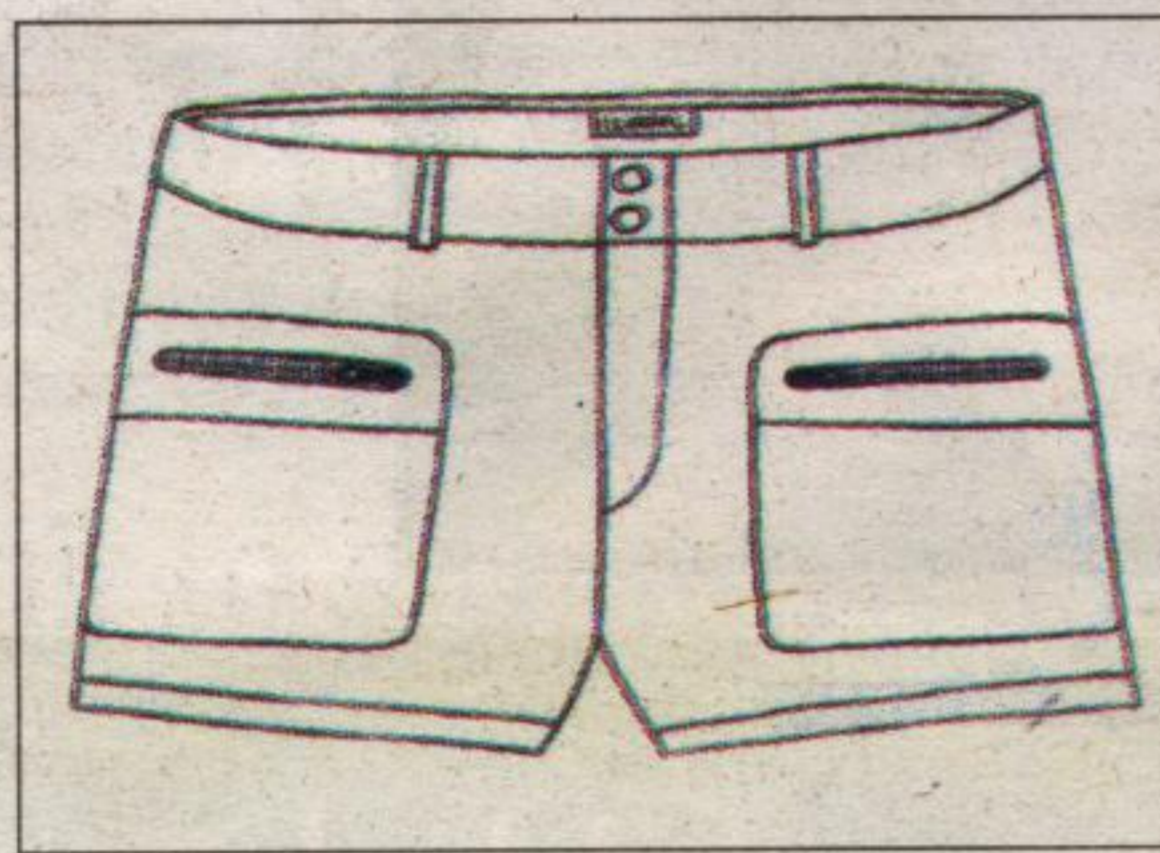
"Where she was found in the wooded area, the fact that at her age she likely didn't die from natural causes and the fact that we are unable to determine who she is or where she is from all make her death suspicious," Smith said.

With the hope that someone will step forward and identify her, investigators have released a detailed description of the mystery woman's clothing.

The woman was found wearing: a pink bra with the label '725 Originals' and the number '31' printed on the left cup; thong-style panties with the label 'Rivage Intimate' and a small bow at the waist; a tank top T-shirt, size 10-12 with the label 'Atmosphere,' one-inch straps and a round neck line;



Wellington OPP released these sketches of a bra and shorts found on the body of a woman in a Rockwood picnic area Sunday.



and corduroy shorts, size nine, with the label 'Illegal Jeanswear.' They had two horizontal zippered front pockets and two back pockets with button-down flaps.

"There must be a neighbour, acquaintance, friend or someone who saw a person wearing the clothing that matches this description," Smith said.

"The public is our biggest chance

of finding out who this woman is and we want anyone who knows someone with this clothing to give us a call."

The body is still at the Office of the Chief Coroner in Toronto and further testing is being done to try and determine an identity and cause of death. Coroners are also conducting DNA tests and bone tests, Smith said.

"All of that takes time," said Smith.

Meanwhile, investigators continue to review missing persons reports from police services, but they have acknowledged the possibility that the woman may not have been reported missing.

"Often when people go missing, a loved one or family member will report them missing," Smith said. "But there are people out there who have no one else. People who have lost touch with their family or who are homeless or desolate and don't want to be found. People who aren't accounted for."

Police are asking anyone who recognizes the woman's clothing or has any information that would help in solving the case to contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

—By Torstar News Service with files from Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Gallery owner close to solving mystery

Although the mystery man in a painting at a local gallery has not yet been positively identified, the shop's owner said many people have called or dropped by to give their opinion on who he is.



MYSTERY MAN

Cathy Longhurst of Art Effects Gallery and Framing Centre says she has had 10 different suggestions about the man's identity, and she is optimistic they will solve the mystery soon.

"We believe we are pretty darn close to having an answer," says Longhurst.

The painting, purchased by Longhurst from a local antique dealer who bought it at a Georgetown estate sale, was featured in the August 19 edition of *The Independent & Free Press*.

One person suggested the man is actor George Kennedy, but Longhurst say they have ruled that one out. Another person said the man was "John" from Belfountain, and someone else suggested he is a Terra Cotta man.

Longhurst says she have been attempting to check out every lead they get about the man's identity.

The painting is on display and up for auction at Art Effects, 348 Guelph St. (905-877-7491), through September 30.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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