

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Who she is will help reveal how she died

By Frances Niblock

OPP know a lot about the female remains found west of Rockwood five years ago, but science and legwork have not led to her name. Police hope a new \$50,000 reward, announced last Thursday, would help solve the suspicious death, considered by police to be foul play.

"She was dumped in this location to hide the truth of her death," said Detective Inspector Ian Maule at a press conference at the Rockwood OPP Detachment. The reward, offered by the Province, is for both information leading to her identification and information on the circumstances surrounding her death.

"It's inconceivable that we haven't identified her... it defies logic why this woman, who was in the prime of her life, has not yet been identified. Police have the simple means to do this," D/I Maule said as he detailed the investigation to date, which has now gone international with the help of Interpol as the woman may have been an American or European immigrant.

It was August 28, 2005 when a motorcycle rider on a poker run stopped at the MTO rest area, walked 10-metres into the bush and found a blue sleeping

bag covered with pine needles. Under the bag, which helped partially preserve the body, were the decomposing remains of a fully clothed female. Police estimate the body had been there between two and six weeks.

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- OPP Detective Inspector Ian Maule

The woman was white, approximately 5'6", 130-pounds with dyed reddish brown hair. An autopsy did not reveal the cause of death, but did find some distinctive healed injuries that police hope will help identify her, including a broken left rib and left cheek, eye socket and nose fractures, which would have required medical treatment and may have left her with a facial deformity. The woman had not been sexually assaulted; police don't know if she bore children, and because of the state of the remains, there is no toxicological evidence.

Due to the facial injuries, the woman wore a low quality, partial upper dental plate with two teeth - a canvass of the dental community didn't raise any leads, but D/I Maule said a mass-mailer of approximately 3,000 letters will be sent to dentists, dental labs and the dental commun-

ity within weeks to ask for help.

D/I Maule said police have the means to identify the woman.

"She can be unidentified through her extensive dental restoration, the injuries to her skeletal remains, from a fingerprint that identification officers were able to recover and by DNA," he said, appealing for the public's help.

"Help us to identify this woman to allow her family to finally know where she is and allow them to properly grieve for their loss. Having a loved one who is missing is ongoing torture to a family; there is never any closure for them," D/I Maule said.

He said the covering up the body leads investigators to believe that who ever dumped her, probably at night, had some connection to her, and covering the body may have been "some type of respect."

D/I Maule said while cases like this can go "cold" they are never closed, although they can go dormant and the remains held forever at the coroner's office.

Anyone with information about the body can call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, visit www.opp.ca where all the case information is listed, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



WHO IS SHE? OPP Detective Inspector Ian Maule holds a facsimile of the shorts worn by a white female whose body was dumped at the MTO picnic/rest stop west of Rockwood five years ago. OPP have offered a \$50,000 reward for information that leads to her identity and to the circumstances of her suspicious death which police believe involved foul play. - Frances Niblock photo

Who is she?

Does no one miss her? A white, slender female, aged 24 to 45 years, with dyed reddish hair and possibly a noticeable face deformity that was "unceremoniously dumped" west of Rockwood five years ago?

OPP released more details about the remains found outside Rockwood five years ago at a press conference last Thursday - information they hope, along with a \$50,000 reward, will lead to her identity and then to the circumstances of her death. The woman had:

- healed injuries to a left rib, and the left side of her face, including a broken nose, cheek and

eye socket - she wore a low quality, two-tooth upper dental plate

- all her clothing was purchased in the Montreal area and police said it suggests that the woman dressed "young for her age"

- she wore a size 12 beige "Atmosphere" tank top, size nine "Illegal Jeanswear" black corduroy short shorts with distinctive designer buttons on the back pickets and horizontal zipper front pockets, a 34B "725 Originals" bra, and "Rivage Intimate" thong-style white underwear

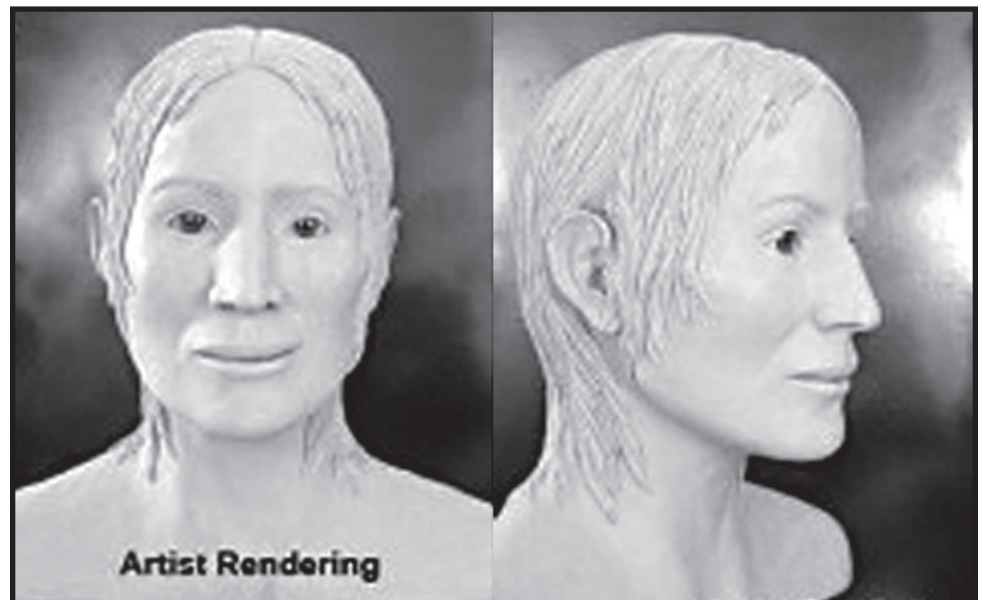
- the body was covered with a blue "Woods" brand sleeping bag that

was sold in Canadian Tire stores across Canada in 2004

- the woman did not have any tattoos, jewelry or shoes

- because Highway 7 is busy, but not normally used by people travelling long distances, police suspect the woman may have been spending time in the Guelph to Brampton area and may have been known as a recent arrival.

The OPP currently has 392 unsolved missing person cases and 188 unsolved unidentified bodies in its database. There are 7,048 people in Canada listed as missing and 1,450 of those are in Ontario.



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