



Ontario Provincial Police
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

News Release/ Communiqué

FROM/DE: Lambton OPP

DATE: March 08, 2010

Reward Ad Campaign Karen CAUGHLIN Homicide 1974

(Petrolia, ON) The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Criminal Investigation Branch under the direction of Detective Inspector Ian Maule, along with members of the Unsolved Homicide Investigative Team is continuing their investigation into the 1974 murder of 14 year old Karen Caughlin.

The OPP, Caughlin family, Sarnia Transit and Pattison Outdoor Advertising launched a billboard ad campaign today to promote the \$50,000 reward offered in the unsolved murder of Karen Caughlin.

On the early morning of March 16, 1974 Karen Caughlin, age 14, was dropped off on Brock Street South, in Sarnia in front of her girl friends house. She never entered the residence. Karen Caughlin was found dead in a ditch beside what is now known as Plowing Match Road, north west of the Town of Petrolia in the morning hours of that same morning. Her coat and shoes were located a short distance from her body in a pile of branches. Her purse was discovered several days later in a ditch just north of Petrolia, south east of where her body was located.

The resulting post mortem revealed that Karen had died as a result of injuries consistent with being struck and run over by a motor vehicle. As a result of further investigation and evidence gathered at the scene it was determined that Karen had been murdered.

Paint chips found on Karen's clothing indicate that the involved vehicle is most likely a 1970 to 1971 Chrysler/Plymouth/Dodge product with metallic purple paint, commonly known as "Plum Crazy Purple". This type of paint was used predominantly on Chrysler's performance vehicles such as the Barracuda, Challenger, Charger, Dart, Demon, Duster, and Superbee. This paint was also used on Chrysler's Belvedere, Coronet, Satellite, and Valliant models. Photographs of the vehicle types can be viewed at: <http://www.opp.ca/media/suspected-cars.pdf>.

In 2004, a review of evidence resulted in the development of DNA evidence in the case that was found to be that of a male suspect. Although numerous persons of interest have been tested and eliminated through DNA, this case still remains unsolved.

The OPP Criminal Investigation Branch and the Caughlin family are again bringing this case to the public's attention at the time of the 36th anniversary of Karen murder to ask for the public's assistance.

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The OPP ask that anyone who can provide information or the name of the person or persons responsible for Karen Caughlin's murder to come forward and provide that information immediately by contacting the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122, your nearest police agency or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

The \$50,000 reward billboard can be viewed at <http://www.opp.ca/media/Karen-Caughlin-Billboard.pdf>. The reward will be apportioned as deemed just by the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services for the Province of Ontario and the Commissioner of the OPP.

For more information on this case visit the OPP website at:
<http://www.opp.ca/cibui/html/displaycase.php?id=17>.

-30-

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