

The night before my meeting with the RCMP, I'd found a similar message to a best friend in my daughter's schoolbag. Losing my patience, I told Kerri to quit writing notes about the cute boy in the Backstreet Boys — to concentrate on her schoolwork instead. For a special effect, I tore the paper to shreds.

Staring at Dana's note to her friend puts things in perspective for me. Last night's incident seems trivial now. I feel a sudden urge to rush on home — to hold my daughter. That's a luxury robbed from Dawn Bradley-Levitz 18 years ago when her only child was murdered.

Dawn Bradley-Levitz Today

Dawn and her husband Jeff run a successful business in St. John's.

RCMP Constable Chris MacNaughton is a frequent visitor to the bed and breakfast. For the past four years, MacNaughton has been the primary investigator in the Bradley homicide.

Both women often sit and chat about the progress of the investigation. According to MacNaughton, Dana's mother lives for the day her daughter's killer will be brought to justice. And although Newfoundland's most notorious murder case is nearly 20 years old, both the RCMP and the Bradley family are certain the case will one day be solved. For MacNaughton, doing so isn't something she needs to enhance her police career. It's something she's intent on doing — “for Dawn's sake.”

“This murder was quite an intrusion and shock upon everyone. It shattered a lot of people to know it could have been their child this happened to. This mother deserves to know who murdered her daughter. And we won't stop until this case is solved, one way or another.”

The Disappearance

On the 14th day of December 1981, Dana Bradley attended school at I.J. Sampson on Bennett Avenue in St. John's. She left school

at approximately 2:50 p.m. with two friends. From there the girls went to Penny Cobb's house on Currie Place, a small cul-de-sac off Topsail Road.

They arrived at Penny's house around 3:10 p.m. and spent the afternoon doing what young teens love to do: listening to music, styling each other's hair, and chatting about the boys they'd see at the school dance they were to attend that Friday night.

Prior to leaving her friend's house at about 5:00 p.m., Dana called her grandmother to say she was heading home. The family had planned a celebration for Dana's mom. Her birthday was the following day.

A Mother's Instinct

When Dana hadn't arrived by 7:15, Dawn knew something terrible had happened.

With her daughter's picture in hand, she drove to the Village Mall, a place Dana and her friends often hung out after school.

No one had seen the pretty 14 year old. Dawn then drove home and waited for her fiancé Jeff Levitz to arrive. They immediately went to the police.

A Missing Person's File is Opened

At the time of Dana's disappearance, both police forces were covering the city and surrounding areas. The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) and the RCMP investigated the case.

Media Publicity Draws Eyewitness

Accounts of Bradley's Last Sightings

Once information hit the media that a young girl was missing, several people came forward with similar accounts of seeing Dana hitch hiking in the Topsail Road area, not far from Tim Horton's. The car was described as an older model Dodge Dart.

Missing Person's Case Turns into Homicide Investigation

At approximately 3:00 p.m. December 18, 1981, the missing person's case turned into a