

murder is being re-tested on a continuous basis.

One such method now available to the police is Mitochondria DNA testing. Unlike other forms of DNA testing, this procedure does not utilize the nucleus of the cell, but merely the material surrounding the nucleus. Therefore, Mitochondria DNA testing allows for a profile to be obtained on a hair that does not have a live root.

Realizing the importance of preserving physical evidence, any hair fibres that may have been obtained at the body recovery site have been carefully stored over the last 18 years.

Sending pieces of crime scene evidence to a laboratory outside the RCMP is an option the RCMP is considering. **(In April, Cst. MacNaughton flew to LabCore Mitochondria DNA Laboratory in Raleigh, North Carolina (U.S.A.), to have the autopsy hairs tested via the Mitochondria DNA method. — Ed.)**

Recent Search

On June 5, 1999, the RCMP, assisted by the Rovers' Ground Search and Rescue Team in St. John's, conducted yet another search of the Maddox Cove crime scene. Coordinated by Sergeant Kevin Butt of the RNC, the search concentrated on locating the alleged murder weapon.

"We received a tip from a person who remembered seeing something years ago that we thought we should look at," MacNaughton explains.

"The searchers combed the bushes and the trees around the site. The area has really grown in over the years. That particular search turned up negative."

At the End of the Day

According to MacNaughton, the public is actively helping police.

"I work here in The Bradley Room every day," she says.

"On average, I get about a tip a week. Each must be thoroughly looked at. We are now in the process of reapproaching all pertinent witnesses from the pick up scene and the crime scene."

As far as closing in on the killer is concerned, MacNaughton says they have a "handful of prime suspects."

"In some cases, we have very strong circumstantial evidence against these suspects. That evidence is still being pursued on a daily basis."

"As we sit here today, I've got exhibits to go off to our forensic laboratory in Halifax, and a very interesting tip to follow up on. It just hasn't been good timing for the media or the public to be aware of what has been going on in this case. So, as much as people may wonder if Dana Bradley has been forgotten, it's never far from my mind."

Glancing to her left toward the picture of the pretty 14 year old, MacNaughton continues.

"I truly feel that there is someone out there walking around, having knowledge of who murdered Dana or of how she died. I just hope that one day they have it in them to get the strength to come forward to the police and tell their story."

"I have open arms for anyone who would come sit and talk with me about anything that might help us put an end to this tragic ordeal."

MacNaughton can be contacted at (709) 772-5410. Anonymous tips, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-363-8477.

Note: Both the RCMP and the RNC say they have not ruled out the possibility of the Bradley homicide being linked to one or more of the three missing woman cases being investigated by the RNC. Sharon Drover went missing in 1979, Henrietta Mille in 1982 and Pamela Asprey in 1984. ☀