

OPP uses new technology to help identify remains

OPP have released a clay facial reconstruction in the hope of identifying human remains first recovered in Algonquin Park in 1980. At a news conference last week, OPP, in partnership with the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service and the Office of the Chief Coroner, unveiled a three-dimensional model of what is believed to be a young male. Police hope the reconstruction will prompt the public, friends or co-workers from that time to provide new information to identify the individual and bring resolution to their family and friends.

A hiker using the Hardwood Lookout Trail near Whitney, located human remains April 19, 1980. The hiker had taken a shortcut off the trail and found the remains approximately 77 metres from trail marker number five. A subsequent search of the immediate area located a size 11, Greb-brand boot, a wallet containing no identification, clothing, a black sleeping bag, a camp stove and an aluminum cooking pot. In 1995, another search of the area resulted in more remains being recovered. Forensic anthropological analysis suggests that the individual was a Caucasian male, aged 18 to 29 years. He had blonde hair varying in length from six to 11 inches, which may have been worn tied back in a ponytail. His belt showed wear at the 32-inch hole. The cause of death is not known. But information recovered from the scene and a stamp found in the wallet led analysts to determine that his death occurred between July 1, 1971 and spring of 1978.

OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes was joined at the news conference by Detective Inspector Rob Matthews of the OPP Criminal Investigations Branch, Forensic Anthropologist Dr. Kathy Gruspier of the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service and OPP Forensic Artist/Reconstruction Analyst, Constable Duncan Way.

Anyone with new information on the case can call a dedicated missing persons hotline toll-free at 1-877-934-6363 (1-877-9-FINDME). Information can also be submitted by e-mail at opp.isb.resolve@opp.ca

?Through innovation, technology and the expert work of the OPP Forensic Artist and our partnership with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service, we are hopeful we can identify this person and bring resolution to his loved ones,? OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes said. ?They deserve to know what happened to him.?