

Janice Howe - Missing Person since 1992



Janice Howe

On the night of Friday, August 28, 1992, 35-year old Janice Howe left her parents' home in Fort Garry driving her father's blue 1985 Olds Ciera. She has never been seen or heard from again.

At 11:30 p.m. Janice had just come home from work and had taken her father's car out for a drive to relax and unwind. It is unknown if she had any plans to meet anyone; however, no one recalls seeing her and she never returned home. Her parents subsequently contacted the Missing Person's Unit and notice was circulated about her disappearance.

At 10:10 a.m. the following morning (Saturday, August 29), an Ontario Provincial Police Officer looking for an injured deer, found the 1985 Olds Ciera that Ms. Howe had been driving parked off the side of the road, 19 miles east of Kenora, Ontario. There were no obvious signs that an assault had occurred in the car; however, the rear floor mats and a 4' x 8' tarp from the trunk were missing.



As Ms. Howe's father had just filled the car up with gas and recorded the mileage for gas consumption purposes before his daughter took it for a drive, police investigators know that the car had been driven for almost 550 kilometres before being abandoned outside of Kenora.



As Kenora is just over 200 km from Winnipeg, the car had travelled an additional 300 kms further than the trip to Kenora would indicate. Based on the mile and the items missing from the car, foul play is a possibility, however, Ms. Howe's body was never found.

Police seek help of public to find woman after abandoned car turns up in Kenora

Fort Garry

By Stevens Wild
Staff Reporter

Janice Howe walked away from her home more than a week ago and she hasn't been seen since.

The 35-year-old woman left her Brisbane Avenue home at 11:45 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28 and just vanished.

"It's an unusual one," said Sgt. Kurt Barz of Winnipeg police missing persons unit. "There was no indication to say that she was going to be leaving."

Barz said police believe Howe left of her own accord and was not abducted.

Howe had said she was going out for coffee, something she did occasionally, and left home without taking any luggage, Barz said.

Howe's father, Eric Kerber, said his daughter had a history of mental problems which he would not specify.

Kerber said Howe, who has lived at home since her divorce 11 years ago, has disap-



Howe: missing since Aug. 28

peared before — disappearances related to her mental history.

"But we've always found her or the police have found her within a few days," Kerber

said.

Her car was found the day following her disappearance by the Ontario Provincial Police in Kenora.

But nobody knows why Howe drove her car to Kenora or why she abandoned it.

Barz said that neither Howe nor her family has any connection with northwestern Ontario.

"No one has any knowledge of why the vehicle was out there or why she would be out there," he said.

After about two years of unemployment she had started a waitress job at the Holiday Inn Winnipeg South three days earlier.

Kerber said the disappearance may have been related to her mental problems, and not related to the stress of her new job.

"Of course, we're concerned," he said.

Howe is white, 5-3, 130 pounds. She has long blond hair and blue eyes.

Police are asking anyone with information about her whereabouts or anyone who has seen her since her disappearance to call missing persons at 986-6250.

Winnipeg Free Press — September 6, 1992

Dental records and a DNA profile for Janice Howe now exist and anyone in the Northern Ontario / Manitoba region which has a "Jane Doe" or unidentified skeletal remains of a middle age women, about 140 lbs, 5'3" in height and with shoulder length blonde hair should consider Ms. Howe as a possible candidate for comparison.

Homicide police join Howe probe

Two Winnipeg homicide investigators were in Kenora yesterday as police continue to probe the mysterious disappearance of Janice Howe.

Sgt. David Shipman and Sgt. Ron Morin — both veteran members of the elite robbery-homicide unit — spent the day talking to Kenora police and touring the remote site where police found Howe's car abandoned on Aug. 29.

City police say they're continuing to treat Howe's disappearance as a missing person but decided to bring in the robbery-homicide unit yesterday as a precaution.

"Just in case it turns out something untoward has happened, we want to make sure we've got all the bases covered," said Staff Sgt. Bill VanderGraaf, acting head of the robbery-ho-

micide unit.

Howe was last seen during the evening of Aug. 28 when she left her parents' home about 11:45 p.m. and was heard driving away in her father's car.

Kenora OPP found the car abandoned the following morning, tucked away in some bushes several hundred metres off the Trans-Canada Highway just east of Kenora.

The way the car was parked has led police to suspect someone had deliberately tried to conceal it.

What police don't know, however, is who did the concealing and why.

"It's not so much as if the car was just left there. It appears that someone tried to hide it," Kenora OPP Staff Sgt. Doug Carlson said yesterday.

Winnipeg Free Press — September 12, 1992

If you have any information about this case, please contact [Winnipeg Crime Stoppers](#) at 204-786-TIPS (8477). Long-distance callers dial 1-800-222-8477.