

# Marie Banks & Constance Cameron Murders

July 1983 &  
August 1984



Eighteen-year-old **Marie Edith Banks** was last seen alive during the early morning hours of Tuesday, July 26, 1983, getting into a vehicle in the area of McDermot Avenue and Princess Street where she worked in the sex trade industry. She was subsequently reported missing by a friend on August 1, 1983.

Two weeks later, on Monday, August 15, 1983, Banks' body was found in an overgrown field in Fort Garry off Sparling Avenue near Manitoba Hydro's former head office at 850 Taylor Avenue and the CNR 'Rivers' rail line. Today this area is the site of the Walmart Supercentre.

A neighbourhood resident out walking his dog found her body in the field and notified the police. The cause of death was determined to be manual strangulation.

Banks' body was found face up with her arms stretched over her head and it appeared that her body had been dragged to this location. Other than her jewelry and a garter belt, Banks was naked and there was no clothing nearby, suggesting her clothing may have been left behind in the suspect's vehicle or the location in which she was killed.

Although Banks' clothing and purse were never found; a neighbourhood youth reported seeing a purse and a shoe similar to ones owned by Banks in the general vicinity on or about July 27, 1983. When the police returned to the location where the purse had been seen, the items were not located. However, a number of condoms were found on the ground, suggesting it was an area that may have been frequented by people involved in the sex trade industry.



## Grandfather wonders what kind of maniac would kill teenage girl

By Kevin Prokosh  
and David O'Brien

The family of a teenage girl whose decomposed body was found in a south Winnipeg field Monday night say they're convinced she was slain by a maniac.

Police yesterday identified the skeletal remains as those of Marie Edith Banks, 18.

Acting crime Supt. Des Depourcq said the department is treating the case as a murder investigation.

"It's not natural for a healthy, 18-year-old girl to die in a field of weeds," Depourcq said. "We have to deal with it as a suspicious death."

She was last seen alive July 25 by her sister, Lise, and was reported missing by her family six days later.

"I knew something was wrong because she called me every day," said the victim's grandmother, Marie.

"She said she would call me the next day but she didn't."

Her husband wondered what kind of maniac would want to kill her.

### 'I'm just sad'

"I'm not mad, I'm just sad," the white-haired, 73-year-old man said. "She was my favorite grandchild."

He added that if his son got hold of his daughter's killer, "he would tear him apart."

The last time she visited the family she seemed cheerful and without a care, said the grandmother.

"But you never know with young people," she said wearily. "They never tell you everything."

The family had gone looking for her shortly after she went missing. Ironically, while shopping they drove past the field south of Taylor Avenue at Harrow Street where her badly decomposed body was discovered by a man walking his dog.

It will be a few days before the cause of death is determined.

Marie's father and brother were upset about the death and refused to comment. Her mother, separated from her husband, lives in northern Manitoba and could not be reached.

The funeral will be held once the analysis is completed. Despite the decomposition both the grandfather and Lise, 17, want to see Marie.

"Everybody has told Lise not to go to the hospital but she's determined to go see her," the grandfather said. "I would like to see her myself."

In the past year she lived in five different locations, one on Lindsay Street about eight kilometres from where she was discovered.

"Since she was 18 she wanted to be on her own," Banks said.

Her grandfather characterized Marie as kind and "too good-hearted."

He said she was an ambitious girl



**Banks: body found in field**

who had applied to Red River Community College and had received her acceptance letter after she disappeared.

"They'll find out who did it," he said. "They have a few suspects."

Depourcq said police have interviewed a few people in an attempt to trace the woman's movements before she died.

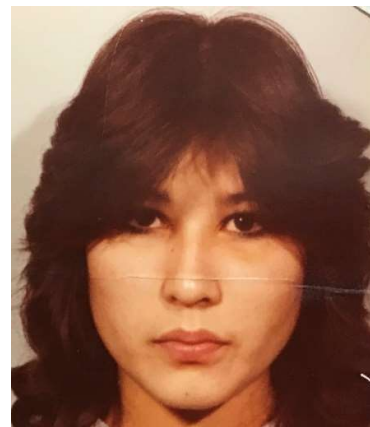
Almost one year to the day and less than 100 meters from where Banks' body was found, the body of another young woman believed to be involved in the sex trade industry was also found.

On August 6, 1984, the body of twenty-year-old Constance ("Connie") Lynn Cameron was found in a wooded area in Fort Garry off Parker Avenue, on the opposite side of the CNR 'Rivers' rail line where Banks was found. Today this area is still undeveloped, but very close to the new South-West Transitway.

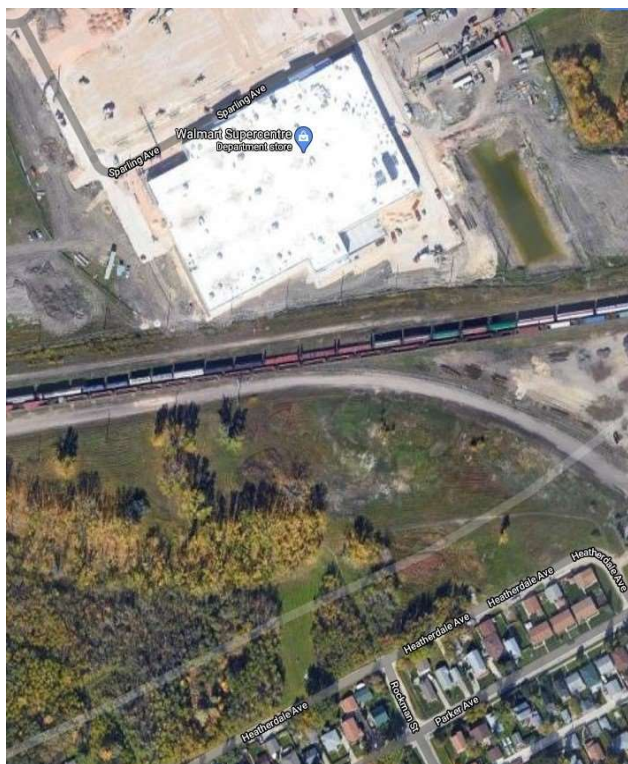
A passerby out for a walk observed her body in the field and notified the police. The cause of death was determined to be manual strangulation.

Cameron was from the Fisher River Cree Nation. The last time she was seen was August 3, 1984, when a friend dropped her off at the corner of Higgins Avenue and Austin Street in Winnipeg. Three days later, her body was discovered in a wooded area in the Fort Garry district of the city.

Cameron's body was found face down with her arms stretched over her head. A black tank top, which she had been wearing, was rolled up to her neck suggesting that her body had been dragged to this location. As her sock feet were clean and free of dirt, this would appear to be consistent with the fact that she had not walked to this location.







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Neither of Cameron's shoes or her purse were found with the body. Like Banks, it is believed that they were left behind in the suspect's vehicle where she may have met her death or driven to the area.

Cameron was last seen alive during the early morning hours of Friday, August 3, 1984, when a friend dropped her off in the area of Higgins and Austin where she may have worked in the sex trade industry.

It is unknown if these two deaths are related as the access roads to these areas by vehicle were on opposite sides of the CNR rail line and it may only be a coincidence as to the location of their bodies. Unfortunately, investigations are often hampered when individuals are involved in the sex trade industry as both those that are exploited and those that exploit them tend to keep their activities away from public view.

