

Tanya Marsden – Murder

Saturday, September 9, 1998



Tania Marsden was last seen alive on Wednesday, September 9th, 1998, the night of her 18th birthday. She was with friends at the Gordon Downtowner Motor Hotel, located at 330 Kennedy Street.

The bartender recalls Tania arriving at the hotel between 9:00 pm and 10:00 pm and that he had checked her identification, an Indian Status Card, to ensure she was 18 years old before serving her.

The girls left about 1 hour later, each going their separate ways. Several days before she disappeared Tania had scheduled an appointment to meet with a Social Service worker on Thursday morning, September 10th, 1998; however, she never kept this appointment.

Nearly three weeks later, on September 29th, 1998, Tania's body weighted down with a cement block was found partially submerged in the Assiniboine River near the West Perimeter Bridge. The cause of Tania's death was determined to be from ligature asphyxiation (strangulation) and the condition of her body suggested she had been in the river for several weeks (consistent with her disappearance on September 9/10th, 1998).

No identification was found on Tania's body when it was discovered. However, several months later her Indian Status Card was returned to Indian and Northern Affairs by Canada Post. It had obviously been found and dropped in a mailbox.

The location where Tania's Indian Status Card was found may hold a clue to this case; however, the person who found the identification has never been located.

As Tania worked and was last seen in the downtown area the killer would have had a car at their disposal.

As the location of Tania's body was not visible because of the bridge and is only accessible by a gravel road that runs parallel to and then underneath the highway, it may not be that well known to people outside the St. James/Charleswood area.

The Homicide Unit was contacted by an anonymous source who provided sufficient information indicating they knew who the killer(s) was. This person has never contacted the police again; however, investigators would like to hear from them again.