

**ES088F: A Foundation for Medical and Forensic Geology
Preliminary Information For Final Report (Part 3 of 3)**

The Xavier Pye-Hurd Case

Bulletin #3: prepared July 18, 2006

(Preliminary Findings of CSI, London, Ontario Investigation Team)

Examination of Mr. Eberth's Backyard Shed

Immediately after interviewing Mr. Clewes on July 16, 2006, police broke the padlock on the door of the shed and made some preliminary observations on interior features of the structure. They confirmed that the shed was designed for rough lapidary work, equipped with a rock saw, two lapidary wheels and a stainless steel sink. Sand-sized rock particles recovered of rock found in the dust collection pan of the layer of rock dust, up to 3 mm thick in some places, was noted to cover the entire surface of the plywood floor of the shed. A sample of the dust was collected for analysis. In the central area of the shed floor, in a patch approximately 1.2 metres in diameter, this material was noted to be intermixed with dried blood. Faint smears of blood were also found on the walls of the sink. No blood splatters were noted on the interior walls of the shed.

A white shopping plastic bag labeled "Canadian Tire," found under the sink in the shed was found to contain three articles of interest: 1) A blood-splattered shirt; 2) a pair of jeans with blood stains on the knees; and 3) a receipt from a Canadian Tire store in Owen Sound. Fortunately, although stained with dried blood, the black print on the receipt was still legible. The time and date of purchase of a list of items, including a hunting knife, a blue tarpaulin, a roll of duct tape, a crowbar, a pair of work gloves, and a pack of Juicy Fruit chewing gum as 10:31 am, July 2, 2006.

Additional Evidence From Mr. Eberth's Van

Overlooked in the preliminary examination of Eberth's vehicle, a blue, 2001 Ford Econoline Cargo Van, were the contents of an cup holder next to the driver's seat. Badly crumpled, and stuffed into the beverage holder along with two candy wrappers labeled "Wrigley," were two receipts from gas purchases made on two separate days. The earlier purchase was indicated to have been made at 8:41 am, July 1, 2006, at a Petro-Canada station in Barrie. The receipt for the later purchase indicated a transaction at 10:21 pm, July 5, 2006 at an ESSO gas bar near Cambridge, Ontario. A receipt from Springmount Motel, Owen Sound was also found; times of check-in and check-out were indicated as 11:37 pm July 1, 2006, and 10:20 am, July 2, 2006 respectively. In the glove compartment was stuffed a towel containing a hunting knife, a semiautomatic pistol and a small crowbar.

In accordance with standard procedure, the odometer and fuel tank readings for the vehicle were also recorded; the odometer of Eberth's vehicle read "41,480 km," and the fuel tank was noted to be approximately three-quarters empty.

Evidence from Mr. Pye-Hurd's Car

London Police returned to Mr. Pye-Hurd's residence to examine the contents of a brown,

1989 Crown Victoria (Ford) that, according to Pye-Hurd's neighbour, Ms. Spitschis, had been sitting in the driveway of the victim's house for nearly two weeks, even though she had not seen any other indication of him being home during that time. She reminded police that this was the reason why she called to report him missing in the first place.

The driver's door of the vehicle was found to be unlocked, the keys still hanging from the ignition. On the floor of the vehicle, directly underneath the brake pedal, investigators found pieces of clayey material that had apparently adhered to the thick treads of a hiking boot, but which had later dried out and had fallen to the carpeted floor of the car. Imbedded in a very soft grey material were fossil shells. Also imbedded in this material were chips of a harder, black, type of shale containing fossils completely different from those directly imbedded in the grey substance. A sample of the grey "clayey material" containing the imbedded fossils and black shale chips was taken for further analysis.

The contents of the glove compartment were found to be neatly organized. Printed documents found within the glove compartment included the registration documentation for the vehicle (indicating the ownership of the vehicle by Mr. Pye-Hurd) and an invoice for recent servicing and an oil change at "Highbury Ford" in London, Ontario on June 28, 2006. On the invoice was the statement "odometer reading: 94,000 km – please return for regular servicing in October." A receipt found on the floor of the vehicle (driver's side) indicated the purchase of fuel at 10:19 pm, July 5, 2006 at an ESSO gas bar near Cambridge, Ontario. In accordance with standard procedure, the odometer reading at the time the vehicle was inspected by investigators was noted as "95,192 km."

Follow-Up Interview With Susan Spitschis

Police revisited Mr. Pye-Hurd's neighbour Ms. Spitschus on July 18 for follow-up questioning. Ms. Spitschus was cooperative in providing additional information on unusual activity at the Pye-Hurd Residence. In particular, she indicated the strange reappearance of the brown Crown Victoria in the driveway. She stated "Yeah, that was the other thing that made me wonder about Xavier's safety. As I said before, I saw him leave the day before Canada Day, and haven't seen him since. I heard some car doors slam just before midnight on the Wednesday after Canada Day. Then something woke me up really early in the morning – about five in the morning I think. Car doors again, but didn't think anything of it. I saw his car in the driveway on Thursday morning, and went over to say hello, but he didn't answer the door. I just figured he had come home and was just under the weather or something. Maybe sick in bed. But when a week went by, I figured there was something strange about how quiet it was in that house. Just a nice man-who would have wanted to kill him?"

Comments on Progress of Case, and Suggestions for Further Study

Preliminary descriptions of evidence gathered at the Pye-Hurd residence and Eberth-DeWitt residence have been provided in Bulletins 1, 2 and the present document (Bulletin 3). Analytical results for samples collected in the course of the investigation are underway, and will be made available by our laboratory staff soon. Detailed instructions

on the format of your final report will follow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Ree Tihir'. The letters are stylized and connected, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the top of the 'I'.

Ivana Ree Tihir,
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