

Main Hall Presentations

Gill Homicide: Overcoming Bias in Criminal Investigations

Ugo Garneau, Staff Sergeant – Ottawa Police Service

Awaiting Bio

Likness Homicide: Triple Homicide Investigation

Ian Oxton, Constable – Calgary Police Service

Cst Ian Oxton is a Forensic Identification Specialist for the City of Calgary Forensic Crime Scenes Unit, with 15 years experience as a Calgary Police Member. He has qualified as an expert witness in the disciplines of latent prints, footwear impression evidence and the use of forensic light sources. He completed the Laurentian University Bachelor of Forensic Identification Program, and has been an IAI Certified Latent Print Examiner since 2015. Prior to joining the Calgary Police Service he was a volunteer with several Search & Rescue Associations in Alberta, including large searches for the Pine Lake Tornado and an Amber Alert in Lethbridge. He has taken his Search and Rescue background into the Calgary Police Service as a Search Manager, and he has also created and provided search techniques training to over 250 members. He is a member of the CPS Public Safety Unit, which has allowed him to continue assisting in search operations for missing persons and large scale evidence collection. Prior to immigrating to Canada he was enlisted in the British Army, and served in Germany, Canada and as a peace keeper in the Former Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina).



Operation Amber – Summer of 2014

Calgary Police investigate a missing persons case of two grandparents and their 5 year old grandson last scene at their home, triggering Canadas longest Amber Alert. The investigation follows neighbourhood security camera footage revealing a suspicious green truck in the area prior to their disappearance. The truck is identified and leads to a 40 acre property in a rural area north of Calgary. For the next month teams search the property and the surrounding fields. The investigation is confirmed to be a triple homicide, and consumes massive resources from across Alberta becoming Calgary's largest homicide investigation. Multiple forensic disciplines come together to assist in the prosecution including latent prints, Bloodstain pattern analysis, footwear impression evidence, DNA analysis, arson, pathology, anthropology & osteology, odontology, toolmarks, digital forensics/technical analysis and locksmithing.

Bias in Forensic Science

Dr. Jeff Kukucka, *Professor – Towson University*

Dr. Jeff Kukucka is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Towson University in Maryland (USA). He received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2014. Broadly, his research examines human factors in forensic science, with a particular emphasis on the causes and consequences of cognitive bias, and a secondary interest in how non-experts understand forensic science. Since 2015, he has also served on the NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science, Human Factors Task Force.



Forensic science can be a powerful tool in solving crimes -- but in recent years, researchers have discovered ways in which psychological factors (such as context, unconscious bias, and stress) can undercut the power of forensic evidence, sometimes resulting in costly errors. In this presentation, I will describe various psychological influences on forensic analyses -- including how labs can take practical steps to combat these influences, and why some labs have resisted while others have benefitted from doing so.

Body Farm

Dr. Shari Forbes, Professor - Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Professor Shari Forbes holds a Canada 150 Research Chair in Forensic Thanatology at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR). She is the Director of the UQTR facility for Research in Experimental and Social Thanatology (REST), the first human decomposition facility to open in Canada. She was formerly an Australian Research Council Future Fellow in the Centre for Forensic Science at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in Australia. She established and directed the Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research (AFTER), the first human decomposition facility in Australia. Prior to this, she was the founding Director of the Forensic Science program at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) where she also held a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Decomposition Chemistry.



Prof. Forbes' research investigates the chemical processes that occur in soft tissue decomposition. Her current research focuses on identifying an accurate chemical profile of decomposition odour using multidimensional chromatography. Her research assists police canine units to improve their training protocols for cadaver-detection dogs deployed to forensic and mass disaster investigations. Her expertise is regularly requested to assist law enforcement with locating and recovering buried or concealed evidence, including human remains, drugs, weapons, and currency.

My presentation will discuss the importance of human decomposition facilities (colloquially known as body farms) to forensic investigations. It will highlight how research and training at the facility can enhance the way we search for, recover and identify human remains.

Millard Homicide

Grant Sutherland. Constable – Ontario Provincial Police

Police Constable Grant Sutherland began his policing career in 2003 with the Toronto Police Service and was assigned to primary response duties in number 31 Division located in the Jane and Finch area of Toronto. In 2009 Grant was assigned to the Toronto Police Forensic Identification Services where he specialized in Forensic Shooting Scene Reconstruction and Firearms. In April of 2016, Constable Sutherland accepted a position at the Gun and Gang Task Force – Firearm Investigation and Analysis Unit where he continued his specializations in shooting scene reconstruction and firearms expertise.

Grant accepted a position within the Ontario Provincial Police in 2021 where he was assigned to general policing duties at the Dufferin Detachment. In January of 2022 Constable Sutherland was temporarily assigned to the OPP Central Region Forensic Identification Services Unit where he continues his role as a Forensic Investigator specializing in firearms and Forensic Shooting Scene Reconstruction. Grant continues to teach within the firearm and shooting scene reconstruction specialties and participates in committees for the betterment of the police expertise relating to firearms and firearm evidence in court.

Ken Lockhart, Assistant Crown Attorney - Toronto

Ken Lockhart was called to the bar in 2009 and has spent most of his career as an Assistant Crown Attorney in the Toronto West Office. He's prosecuted a wide range of criminal offences at all levels of court in Ontario: from impaired driving to numerous shootings to multiple homicides. He's one of two representatives for the Crown on Ontario's Multi-Disciplinary Major Case Consortium, which provides investigative advice to major cases across the province. In addition, Ken has done secondments to the Crown Law Office – Criminal and Toronto Summary Conviction Appeals Office. Ken is a course director for the Ministry of the Attorney General's "Crown School", and lectures regularly at the Ontario Police College, Osgoode Hall Law School (as a guest), and at Humber College's crime scene investigators' course.

The Trial of Dellen Millard for the murder of his father, Wayne Millard.

This presentation will cover the investigation and prosecution of Mr. Dellen Millard for the murder of his father, Wayne. There will be particular focus on the partially excluded expert evidence of Grant Sutherland relating to Forensic Shooting Scene Reconstruction. Discussion will include an introspective look into the delivery of expert testimony, as well as the observations of Assistant Crown Attorney, Ken Lockhart. We will examine the misconception that an expert needs to deliver flawless testimony. The conclusion will be a discussion of the fallout and criticisms and lessons learned moving forward.