

# A Dark Night

## The Walking Bridge Murder

(A Cold Case)

In the vibrant city of Fredericton, New Brunswick, resided a young and ambitious individual named Declan. At the age of sixteen, he harboured dreams of becoming a renowned detective, inspired by the captivating mysteries he devoured in his extensive collection of novels. When news of the notorious 'Walking Bridge Murder' gripped the city, Declan saw an opportunity to showcase his skills and determination in a case that had stumped others before him.



The walking bridge murder had become a chilling tale whispered among the city's residents, shrouded in fear, confusion and speculation, akin to a flock of mysterious crows. The incident took place on a stormy night, adding an eerie backdrop to the tragic event that unfolded on the bridge connecting the Northern and Southern parts of the city. The victim, a prominent businessman named Mr. Campbell, was discovered lifeless at the southern end of the bridge, igniting a wave of unanswered questions and conspiracies that lingered in the air like a haunting presence.

Various theories emerged surrounding Mr. Campbell's demise, including rumors of his ties to organized crime in Toronto and suspicions of a clandestine rendezvous with a secret lover on that fateful night. The details leaked by local law enforcement painted a cryptic picture of the events leading up to the murder and the current evidence:

1. The evening of the alleged murder was enveloped in darkness, as an incredible atmospheric river moved in.
2. Allegations had surfaced, linking Mr. Campbell to the intricate web of organized crime in Toronto.
3. His activities that day were as follows;
  - a. He was spotted at the Boyce Farmers' Market in the morning, a place he cherished for its exquisite food and vibrant community of artists.
  - b. Later, he was observed near the Fredericton Region Museum by Officers' Square, according to reports.
  - c. His evening was spent at Maxwell's Steak & Seafood, a local gem he had patronized for years, indulging in his preferred dish amidst the warm, familiar setting. This establishment stands out as one of the city's most remarkable dining experiences.

4. During his time at the restaurant, he was accompanied by an enigmatic woman and not his wife.
5. A 2”by 4” 4 foot plank was discovered around 10 feet from the crime scene, hidden in the woods.
6. Despite his apparent financial security, rumors swirled about his connections to the criminal underworld in Toronto.
7. He was found dressed in his business attire, indicating he might have been coming directly from work or a formal meeting.
8. Plans for a two-week vacation in Germany were on his calendar, set to start the following weekend, which only deepened the enigma of his sudden demise.
9. A second girlfriend, unknown to his wife and current girlfriend, was revealed, though they were not present in town on the night in question but in Toronto.
10. His body was discovered drenched in water from the heavy rains that night.
11. Remarkably, there were no visible marks on his body.
12. The coroner’s report has mysteriously gone missing, as confirmed by a police spokeswoman.
13. However, the police spokeswoman assured that the report would be recovered shortly.
14. A witness recounted that he seemed profoundly distressed as he left the restaurant.
15. The last sighting of him was his solitary walk towards the bridge after his evening meal.

With unwavering resolve, Declan marshalled his intellect and embarked on his investigation. He meticulously sifted through old newspaper clippings, scouring for any overlooked clues or neglected details. Declan requested any documentation he could get from his friend Corporal Woods in the city’s police force, which was surprisingly substantial.

- Organized Crime Report
- Police Incident report from the night in question
- The Coroner’s Report notes, the original report was misplaced.

It was weeks after that fateful night, before he was able to make his way to the bridge and the alleged scene of the crime. Declan believed that by immersing himself in the location of the murder, he might gain a profound understanding of the events that had transpired. He hoped, against all odds, that he might uncover something previously missed.

Declan noted curiously the absence of power lines or fiber cables on the bridge, an anomaly for such a structure. The bridge is an older rusted steel truss bridge approximately 100 years old. It was an old solidly design train bridge after all. This now historical landmark supplied the city with much needed transportation of commerce from across the province and Canada for many years. It now stands as a silent witness to the mystery that unfolded that night.

As he lingered at the scene, pondering the peculiarities of the case, Declan received on his cell phone a cryptic text message. The sender claimed to know what hadn't happened on the bridge but was in the dark about what actually had. They proposed a clandestine meeting at the bridge later that night to share their story. Declan considered this a little strange but any new information could be helpful, so he reluctantly agreed. Declan knew there was a certain amount of risk in any late night meeting, he relished the challenge.

Declan arrived at the south end of the bridge just before the stroke of midnight. The night was cloaked in exceptional darkness, with no moon to light the sky and only a few scattered streetlights providing minimal illumination. Declan found himself poised at the entrance of the bridge, anticipation coursing through him as he awaited the arrival of his mysterious rendezvous. Abruptly, a voice emerged from the inky shadows cast by the trees flanking the bridge's abutments. It was the soft, yet distinct whisper of a woman, asserting her innocence in the matter of the murder, suggesting that while his suspicions were misplaced, they were not entirely misguided. "You're looking in the wrong direction, yet it's also somehow the right one," she intimated cryptically. With those enigmatic words, she retreated back into the veil of darkness, disappearing as swiftly as she had appeared, leaving Declan alone with the chilling mystery that now deepened even further. What did she mean "You're looking in the wrong direction, yet it's also somehow the right direction"

Just as Declan was about to leave the bridge, he spotted a conspicuous black mark about 10 meters further into the bridges construction. Finding it odd, he observed that it was quite distant from the suspected crime scene. Additionally, he noticed an unusual color of grass around the bridge's base. Everything else appeared to be normal.

Declan now had all the information he needed to solve this murder. What do you think ?

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The Crow Murder, Mysteries

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