

Free to go

Six years after pleading guilty to killing Leah Faulkner, inset, and dumping her body in Beaver Creek, pictured here, Tyler Neudorf is a free man



Frank Peebles

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Citizen staff

Although Tyler Neudorf is back walking the streets of British Columbia after six years in prison, he is still to be under some degree of supervision.

The Crown feared he could kill again, so they applied for and was granted a peace bond under Section 810.2 of the Criminal Code.

Neudorf was denied all forms of parole and statutory release from prison. He was first sentenced after a plea bargain with Crown reduced his murder charge to a manslaughter conviction, in the death of his former girlfriend Leah Faulkner, 21.

The two had been living together in a home near Chief Lake Road when she went missing in February 2002. Her body was found near West Lake three weeks after she went miss-

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FATHER OF LEAH
FAULKNER

ing; Neudorf had already left town, but was soon the prime suspect.

"He just got off easy. Six years went by fast," Leah's father Rick Faulkner told The Citizen. "I thought it was good that they didn't let him out for the full sentence, that's where he should be; there was nothing we could do when the six years passed."

The RCMP had been tracking Neudorf's progress in prison, said Prince George RCMP Insp. Chris Bomford.

"There is a unit (at E Division headquarters) that handles that, full-time," Bomford said. "That unit looks at individuals coming to the end of their incarceration period and puts together Section 810 applications, and for Mr. Neudorf that was already done."

A hearing was held at Abbotsford Provincial Court on Tuesday to address Neudorf's case.

"It was an initial appearance, but Mr. Neudorf consented to the terms Crown was seeking. He has been placed on a recognizance for a period of 12 months," said provincial Crown spokesman Neil MacKenzie.

The list of conditions by which Mr. Neudorf must now live is long, and he is to be supervised closely by federal parole and provincial probation personnel.

Among them are stipulations that he has to live in a place approved of by his probation officer, and he can't move without getting permission.

He can't have an intimate relationship with a woman without notifying probation and cannot continue the relationship without informing the woman, in the presence of his probation officer, about his past.

Likewise he can't have friendships with parents of children without doing the same. He may not own animals. He may not go into a bar or pub and must inform his probation officer if he did so by mistake.

He must not consume alcohol or illicit drugs and must keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

It is not known by anyone spoken with by

She had wanted to cuddle ...

A peek inside the mind of a killer

Tyler James Neudorf was eligible for parole on April 25, 2005. His application was denied by the National Parole Board (NPB) because "they believed the offender's risk would be undue should he be released," said NPB spokeswoman Heather Byron.

On June 13, 2007 he became eligible for statutory release, which is due course for any federal inmate two-thirds of the way through his or her sentence, so as to reintegrate them in a controlled manner back into society. Byron said this was extraordinarily denied in Neudorf's case.

"The board was satisfied that, if released, the offender was likely to commit an offense causing the death of or serious harm to another person," and that decision was reviewed and upheld in May, 2008 and April, 2009.

According to NPB documents obtained by The Citizen, at his last hearing in April he had demonstrated "continued aggressive behaviour toward female staff," as well as "your refusal to re-take the High Intensity Family Violence Prevention Program," and an unfulfilled need to "address the 'rush' and 'excitement' you get from killing."

According to Neudorf's conversations with incarceration staff, he admitted to choking Faulkner to death on Feb 11, 2002 and dumping her body in a rural location southwest of Prince George. They had been drinking beer and doing cocaine together, and, although they had ended the romantic side of their relationship, she had wanted to cuddle that night, causing him to attack her.

He then told her parents that she had been suicidal and had left home in a mentally unstable condition.

"This is particularly concerning when considering that the victim had a young child," said the NPB. "There are letters on file outlining the ongoing impact on her child, who remains confused about why his mother was killed."

Neudorf also admitted to acts of physical abuse, including choking, against Faulkner before the night of her death, and to acts of violence against females in previous relationships.

He found these acts to be exciting, and the death of Faulkner to be "a thrill." He eventually admitted to corrections staff that killing her was premeditated.

"You have admitted that you had previously 'swatted', shaken and thrown (Faulkner's



A bouquet of flowers lies on the bank beside Beaver Creek at West Lake where Leah Faulkner's body was found.

Citizen photo by David Mah

young child) onto the couch, the floor or into his crib and that the severity of the abuse increased over time," the NPB ruling explained.

"The child had been placed in the custody of (Faulkner's) parents several days prior to (her death) and file information indicates that you have stated that if the child had been there on the night of the offense you would have killed him as well."

Neudorf revealed a long history of abusing animals leading up to his abuse of people, of verbal outbursts and physical altercations at school with peers and adults, and during his youth contemplated killing his step-father and mother "to the point of acquiring a loaded shotgun and standing at their bedroom door while they slept," but did not follow through with the plan.

One of the aggravating factors was Neudorf's lack of remorse. His initial statements to police and even to corrections staff after his conviction were lies, and he refused to divulge the location of Faulkner's body for almost a month, showing no regard for the grief of her loved ones.

In conclusion, NPB officials remained confident to the end that Neudorf is still a danger to the public.

— Peebles, Citizen

The Citizen what Neudorf's future plans are once he is out of prison. He had indicated during his prison term that he wanted to get a welding ticket, that he wanted to reside in an unnamed place in the B.C. Interior, but whatever is imminent for him has not been disclosed yet.

"I have no idea what his plans are now. He's got more rights than I do. The court system ... ah ... I don't know ...," said Faulkner.

MacKenzie said Neudorf would have to start making plans with his probation officer starting in Abbotsford no more than 48 hours after his release.