

Julie Oakley Parker vanished from a doorstep

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Jodie Oakley has good and bad days. "It's something that's so trying," she said this week.

"Some days you sleep for 20 hours, sometimes you don't. I'm coping, but not really well."

Oakley is referring to her sister Julie Oakley Parker who vanished Aug. 2, 2006 after stepping outside for a cigarette while staying with friends in Quesnel.

Julie and her husband Brad had been arguing. Julie never returned from her smoke.

The mother of two missed her daughter Cassidy's 12th birthday.

"Julie's never missed her daughter's birthday before," Brad told the *Quesnel Cariboo Observer* Aug. 9, 2006.

"Something's wrong. She hasn't called.

"No one's heard from her and she hasn't been seen where she normally hangs out. She's not anywhere."

Julie and Brad had moved to Nazko prior to her disappearance, but were in town while Cassidy attended 4-H Achievement Day at Alex Fraser Park.

"Cassidy doesn't have a mom. The family has helped her out and she knows she can call them anytime," Oakley said, Wednesday morning.

Oakley put up posters around town, and set up a vigil at the intersection of Carson Avenue and Highway 97 south on the six-month anniversary of her disappearance and again rallied at the pedestrian bridge in August.

"[This year], she missed the birth of her sister's boy and her brother had a daughter," Oakley said.

"There is no closure. It's something that keeps going on and on. We will never stop looking for her.

"It's been put out there so much we

don't want to let it go."

Police have collected more than 300 tips and it's still an active file.

"The two main witnesses won't talk to us," RCMP Staff Sgt. Keith Hildebrand said.

"We would like to talk to them but we don't have enough evidence to arrest them or talk to them."

Oakley described her sister as the kid in the pack – someone always smiling and laughing.

"I sold her a goat," she told the *Observer* in August, 2006.

"But every time somebody pulled in her driveway, the goat would run out and push its horns into the car.

"So for a couple of hours, she chased the goat. It hid underneath a propped-up boat, so she took the boat down and

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Jodie Oakley, Julie's sister

pulled the goat out and brought it to me.

"She was so mad, so out-of-breath, but she was laughing the whole time. She was intimidated by animals. That's the way Julie was."

RCMP Const. Ray Kinloch commends the family for keeping Julie

in the public eye.

All Oakley asks is the person or persons responsible for her disappearance come forward.

"Whoever is responsible is hiding behind the law," she said.

"Julie doesn't have a voice and that person [responsible] has used all her rights."

The Oakley family has offered a \$1,000 reward for any information that leads to an arrest.