

# Search still on for Deena Braem's killer

**ANNIE GALLANT**  
*Observer Reporter*

Jim Braem expects to go to his grave never knowing who murdered his daughter Deena. RCMP say their investigation into Deena's 1999 murder remains one of their top priority unsolved cases, but Jim isn't optimistic about a solution.

"If they've got nothing after eight years, that's exactly what they've got, nothing," he said.

Coping hasn't come any easier for the Braem family.

"On the outside, we look like we're OK but you're never OK," he said.

"You never get over it but at the same time you can't stop living."

Sept. 24, 1999, 16-year-old Deena Braem was excited about a party she was planning to attend that evening. It was her birthday weekend. Deena was turning 17 on Sept. 28.

She slipped on a pair of silver-coloured blue jeans with flare bottoms and a blue-gray sweater with a wide, multi-coloured strip across the middle.

Before she left the house she also threw on a blue-gray hooded jacket with a pouch in front and then put on Airwalk running shoes.

Deena went to school as usual and then headed to

the party with her friends at the four-by track.

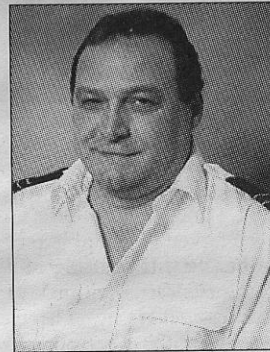
The party was a good one, by all accounts, but Deena eventually tired and, with a friend, caught a ride into town. Leaving her friend at the home of another acquaintance, Deena decided to continue on hitchhiking home.

Quesnel RCMP need information and are still keenly interested in talking to people who might have seen her on North Fraser Drive in the early morning hours of Sept. 25.

Several citizens have come forward in the past and have confirmed seeing her near Bartels Trailer Park between 3 and 4 a.m.

But two males, reportedly hitchhiking the same stretch of road at about the same time have never spoken to police. They are described as male, in their late teens, one wearing a ball cap and bomber style jacket, both described as 5'8" to 5'10", both wearing dark coloured baggy pants, one possibly wearing a green jacket.

Several people remembered seeing the teenager at the side of the road in those early morning hours, but for



**Jim Braem**

one reason or another, they didn't pick her up.

She never made it home to Bouchie Lake.

An exhaustive search netted nothing.

Then, Dec. 10, 1999, Deena's body was discovered by a hunter under a pile of brush near Pinnacles Park. She was murdered.

Jim echos the RCMP call out to anyone who might have seen anything that Saturday night to come forward, especially the two teenage boys believed to have been on North Fraser Drive and possibly spoken to Deena.

"If those two guys are still around here, for the love of God, come forward and

say something," Jim passionately pleaded.

"People are reluctant to co-operate with police and don't want to get involved. Some just couldn't care less. Somebody out there knows something about this."

Jim said he's thought this through every which way and said he could see almost anyone as the killer.

"But that drives you crazy," he added.

"Whoever did this is one cold-hearted son-of-a-bitch."