

# Remains ID'd as Ottawa teen who went missing in 1994



BLAIR CRAWFORD, OTTAWA CITIZEN  
[More from Blair Crawford, Ottawa Citizen](#)

Published on: October 12, 2016 | Last Updated: October 12, 2016 5:15 PM EDT

Human remains found at a construction site in Manotick last spring have been identified as an Ottawa teen who went missing from his home more than 22 years ago.

Police used DNA to confirm a bone found by workers on Cabrella Place in May was that of 19-year-old Shafiq Visram.

Visram was a Grade 12 student at South Carleton High School at the time of his disappearance on May 30, 1994.

Investigators enlisted the help of a forensic anthropologist after the bones were unearthed, but can't say how Visram died, said Ottawa police Const. Chuck Benoit.

"This is a cold case just because of the number of years that have gone by," Benoit said Wednesday. "But we don't have a cause, so we can't go further than that. We can confirm the identity of the remains as Mr. Visram, but we can't go into any sort of foul play or anything like that."

Officers from the Major Crime unit are investigating and they've asked for the public's help to piece together Visram's final day.

Visram was reported missing by his older sister who arrived back at the family's Manotick home around 4 or 5 p.m. that day expecting to find him there. Visram was the youngest of five kids in the family, which had immigrated to Canada from Kenya two years before.

# MISSING



## SHAFIQ VISRAM

MISSING FROM MANOTICK, ONTARIO CANADA

MAY 30, 1994

LAST SEEN IN MANOTICK, ONTARIO

WEARING BLUE JEANS, WHITE JACKET & JOGGING SHOES

ANYONE WITH ANY INFORMATION ON THE

WHEREABOUTS OF SHAFIQ VISRAM IS ASKED TO

IMMEDIATELY CALL THE NEAREST POLICE OR

THE MANOTICK OPP AT (613) 692-2525

THIS POSTER PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED BY

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR MISSING CHILDREN  
1150-151 SEATED STREET OTTAWA (613) 233-0052 FAX (613) 233-2712

Evidence showed Visram had been home that afternoon and had made himself a cup of tea. He left behind his wallet, bank card and other ID when he disappeared.

The family said at the time that Visram didn't appear depressed, but he hadn't been doing as well in school as he had hoped. His school bag was found on the banks of Mud Creek in Manotick, but a search by helicopter, police K-9 unit and even a police dive team turned up no trace of him. More than 200 volunteers pitched in to search the surrounding countryside. They found nothing.

The Visram family has been notified about the discovery, Benoit said.

Despite the sad ending, Benoit said finding the remains can give the Visrams some peace of mind.

"A family that has no clue as to what has happened to their sibling or their son, it at least gives them some time to mourn his passing," he said. "And they have to look forward to what actually happened. This investigation will continue to hopefully create a full story of when he went missing and the reason why he went missing."

Anyone with information is asked to call the Major Crime Unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 5493. Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or by downloading the Ottawa Police app.

[bcrawford@postmedia.com](mailto:bcrawford@postmedia.com)  
[Twitter.com/getBAC](https://twitter.com/getBAC)