

‘One of Toronto’s oldest mysteries:’ Murdered woman whose remains were found 31 years ago now identified by police

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In 1995, the skeletal remains of a woman murdered decades earlier were found under a building near Danforth and Coxwell avenues.

Toronto police say they have now identified the victims of two separate cold cases, including a woman who was murdered 90 years ago and buried underneath a building in the city’s east end.

According to police, the first cold case is related to the skeletal remains of a woman found under a former auto dealership in the area of Danforth and Coxwell avenues in 1995.

On May 18, 1995, police said officers were called to the area after demolition workers discovered the skeletal remains of an unknown woman.

“A forensic examination determined the victim had been intentionally buried after suffering at least six blunt force injuries to the head from a hammer-like weapon,” police said [in a news release](#) issued Monday.

“The investigation was classified as a homicide.”

“We were unable to identify her at that time. We created a composite image of her, released it to the public in 1995,” Det. -Const. Michael Kelly told CTV News Toronto.

“We got a lot of tips come forward, a lot of people saying, ‘My mom, my aunt, my sister went missing in the 40s. This could be her.’ None of those ultimately panned out.”

He said the case was recommended for IGG in 2022, but investigators initially had issues developing a DNA profile.

“Because of the nature of how long the remains had been in the ground, some other bacterial issues and contamination, it made very difficult for us to get a good DNA sample to work with,” he said.

Kelly noted that it was just in the last three months that investigators were able to make significant progress in that area.

“There is different parts of our anatomy which are more resistant to forms of bacterial contamination or degradation, so we were able to obtain a segment of bone from her that was actually able to yield a perfect, nice, clean, fully robust DNA profile for her,” Kelly said.

The victim has now been identified as **Mary McLeod Moffat**, police said.

Moffat was born in Scotland in 1905 and immigrated to Canada with her family 1913. They believe she was likely murdered 90 years ago.



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“Historical records, family interviews, and evidence recovered from the burial site established that she was likely murdered in approximately April 1936,” police said.

According to police, the victim's husband, Andrew Lloyd Moffat, who died 10 years before his wife's body was discovered, is believed to be responsible for her murder.

Through their investigation, Kelly said officers learned that Moffat and her husband had one child before he left and married a woman in the Toronto area, unbeknownst to his first wife.

"She obviously came to Toronto. We surmised that some form of confrontation occurred, which resulted in her death and burial."

Her body, he said, was found at a property that was adjacent to a tire business that her husband operated.

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He at one point assumed the alias Drake Lloyd Cummings and lived in the United States and Vancouver before his death in 1985.

Kelly said the suspect ultimately married four women, having children with three of them.

"We have been able to have discussions with those family members as well," the detective said.

"Obviously this begins and ends with a very sad, difficult tale to hear about, but for some family members it answers a few questions."

He called Moffat's murder "one of Toronto's oldest mysteries."

"This never would have been solved without IGG," Kelly said.