

After 51 Years, North Bay (Ontario) John Doe (1975) is Identified as Claude Hamilton Brownscombe

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North Bay Police Service, Toronto Police Service, & RCMP Leverage Othram's Identity Inference Platform to

Identify a 1975 John Doe



From DNASolves.com and CP24.com: On June 3, 1975, the skull of an unidentified man was found in a wooded swampland area behind the former Bomarc missile base near North Bay, Ontario, by students working with the Ministry of the Environment. Investigators recovered the remains and investigated the scene, but did not find anything that would help identify the man.

An examination of the remains led to an estimated age of 24 to 75 years (35-65 years old per the Doe Network)⁸ and that the person had died 1-2 years before. The authorities could not determine a cause of death due to the limited remains but did not think that foul play was involved. "Efforts to identify the man, including forensic testing over the years, were unsuccessful. Despite continued investigative work, the case went cold, and the man went unidentified for more than 50 years.

Details of the case were entered into the National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR) as case number 2005006199. NCMPUR provides specialized investigative services in support of missing persons and unidentified remains investigations across Canada."

In 2023, investigators with the North Bay Police Service re-opened the case. North Bay Police Service officials, working together with Toronto Police Service and the RCMP, submitted evidence to Othram, whose scientists worked to develop a DNA profile from the limited remains. This profile was then used in a forensic genetic genealogy search.

New leads that resulted from the search sparked a follow-up investigation that located two surviving family members in the US, a great-niece and a great-nephew. Their DNA submissions resulted in the identification of the man as **Claude Hamilton Brownscombe**, born on October 24, 1896 in Uxbridge, Ontario. Brownscombe had been a WWI veteran and had lived in Timmins, appearing in voter lists in 1949 and 1957. His great-nephew recalled that he had lived a quiet life in a cabin in northern Ontario.

“While our thoughts are with Mr. Brownscombe’s family and loved ones, we hope this identification provides answers and a measure of closure after so many years,” said North Bay police Chief Daryl Longworth.

RIP Claude.

****Links****

CP24.com: <https://www.cp24.com/news/canada/2026/07/30/human-remains-found-50-years-ago-near-north-bay-belonged-to-first-world-war-veteran/>

Doe Network: <https://www.doenetwork.org/cases/software/main.html?id=3253UMON>

Unidentified Wiki: https://unidentified-awareness.fandom.com/wiki/Claude_Brownscombe