



NDDDB “Hit” Solves Cold Case

He was popular in the community and a regular at church.

He raised money for local charities.

But he also had a dark side. The 36-year-old father of three pleaded guilty in the brutal 1998 rape of an Ontario teenager and was sentenced to five years in prison.

32

He would likely be a free man today if it were not for the National DNA Data Bank.

The assault, described as “vile and disgusting” by the presiding judge in the trial, took place on a residential street in Bowmanville, Ontario. The victim was walking home after spending the night with friends when she was grabbed from behind, dragged under a tree and thrown onto the ground. The attacker wore a balaclava and threatened her with a knife. The victim was sexually assaulted and was struck on the head and back.

An intense, three-month manhunt ensued. Police interviewed more than 40 people and obtained DNA samples from 20 potential suspects. The samples were submitted to the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto for comparison with the attacker’s DNA extracted from biological evidence, which had been collected from the victim. There were no matches and police ran out of leads.

The break in the case came a couple of years later when the offender was convicted in another Ontario community of assault causing bodily harm. Under the *DNA Identification Act*, which had just come into effect, he was ordered to provide a sample of his blood so that his DNA profile could be generated and entered into the NDDDB in Ottawa.

Soon after, NDDDB personnel had a “hit” with the unsolved sexual assault from 1998.

According to the detective who led the police investigation, “It shows the money spent on the data base is leading to police finding and convicting sexual predators, where we had very little evidence. Without the National DNA Data Bank, this predator would still be out there in our midst.”