

New details emerge in missing man's case

MISSING FROM A1

New Brunswick RCMP have not publicly identified any suspects in relation to Mitchell's disappearance. Holland previously told Brunswick News he had nothing to do with Mitchell's disappearance and has fully cooperated with the police investigation, which has included searches of his property.

In a previous interview, Holland said Mitchell was on drugs when he arrived at the camp – an allegation disputed by Mitchell's family. Mitchell first told Holland that he planned to go to a bar and then later said he was going to "Baie-Sainte-Anne to go see a couple of friends," according to Holland.

At the time of his disappearance, Mitchell didn't drive and didn't have a vehicle at the Whites Mountain property, according to his mother, who said when she asked about her missing son, she was initially told by Holland that Mitchell had "went to the bar."

In an interview with Brunswick News, Holland said that Mitchell went to bed at the camp on the night of Sept. 9. By the time he woke up the next morning, Holland said Mitchell wasn't there.

Cathy Mitchell Cooper previously told Brunswick News that her son isn't a "poster child" – he likes to drink and party – and has gone days without contacting his family in the past. However, she maintains that her only child wouldn't "drop off the face of the earth" and not contact her for an extended period of time.

David Mitchell does have a criminal record starting in 2009 with assault, break and enter, and impaired driving convictions in the Hampton, Saint John, Moncton and Miramichi areas, with a failure to appear in court in October of last year.

In 2021, Mitchell was sentenced on charges of assault by choking, uttering threats, obstructing a peace officer and breach of probation in Miramichi, according to his record. He received another two and a half months after credit for nine and a half months of pre-trial custody.

When asked if her son could have enemies in relation to these cases, Mitchell Cooper told Brunswick News Saturday that she doesn't believe so. However, she does believe the police are treating her son's case less seriously than other missing persons cases because of his criminal history.

Family and friends of David Mitchell have been calling for the New Brunswick RCMP to enlist its major crime unit in the investigation into his disappearance.

The unit is responsible for investigating "new and unsolved homicides, attempted homicides, suspicious deaths and disappearances, and high-profile cases," according to the New Brunswick RCMP website.

However, the RCMP told Brunswick News that although Mitchell's disappearance has now been deemed suspicious, his case doesn't meet the "specific criteria" for involvement of the major crime unit.

"It's ludicrous – it's absolutely insane – and I say to them, you have your child missing for 73 days and then tell me it's not important to get major crime involved in this," Mitchell Cooper said in the pouring rain as she and a dozen supporters protested outside of the Hampton RCMP detachment Saturday.

PUBLIC SAFETY MINISTER SPEAKS WITH FAMILY

New Brunswick RCMP wouldn't say what specific criteria needs to be met for its major crime unit to become involved in the investiga-

tion into David Mitchell's disappearance.

"We are not able to comment on the specifics as it falls under our operations and tactics," Ouellette said in an email Thursday. "For officer and public safety reasons, we do not discuss our operations and tactics."

Public Safety Minister Robert Gauvin and Deputy Minister Mike Comeau recently spoke with Cathy Mitchell Cooper about her son's disappearance.

"They've restored my faith – there's no question," said Cooper Mitchell, who has also heard from local MLAs. "I slept that night for the first time all night."

In a statement Friday, New Brunswick's public safety department confirmed that Gauvin and officials had spoken with Mitchell Cooper, noting the minister is "urging anyone with information" to call the police or Crime Stoppers.

"While every missing person case is a police matter, the minister and department understand these cases are a nightmare for the loved ones involved and the minister expresses his concerns for Mrs. Cooper and her family," the statement reads.

The Southeast District Community Crime Reduction Unit and the Sussex RCMP continue to ask the public for "any new details" about Mitchell's disappearance, "even if they seem small, as it may be that

one piece of evidence required to help us locate David Mitchell," Ouellette said in an email.

"Police continue to urge the public to report anything that may help further the investigation directly to police and not to speculate on the circumstances surrounding his disappearance."

'WE WANT HIM HOME'

Only three months before Mitchell vanished, his aunt Shelley Saulnier suffered a heart attack.

"David was the first one at my door with flowers," Saulnier said through tears. "That's the kind of kid he was."

"We just miss him so terribly and we want him home."

A father of three sons, Mitchell was "good to his kids," as well as his cousins, said Saulnier, who enlisted her nephew to install hardwood floors and paint walls at the homes she's lived at over the years.

"He was such a nice guy," said Saulnier, who drove in from Quispamsis to protest outside of the Hampton RCMP detachment.

"He was the type of guy you'd want to sit around the supper table with and chat."

That's what has made Mitchell's disappearance surprising to the family. "It was so out of character for David," Saulnier said.

With files from Andrew Bates

FORM 70A

Notice of Intent to Apply for a Title Declaration

TO: To Whom it May Concern/Property Owners

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

The Province of New Brunswick intends to apply for a title declaration in relation to land located at the intersection of Jolicure Road and Parson Road, Municipality of Tantramar in Westmorland County, having PID 00826941.

The title declaration sought is as follows:

A full title declaration certifying that the Province of New Brunswick is the owner in fee simple absolute of the land located at the southern corner of the intersection of Jolicure Road and Parson Road, Municipality of Tantramar in Westmorland County, having PID 00826941 and identified as Lot 2024-1 on the attached Schedule "A".

The title declaration, if granted, will bind all persons.

If you dispute or question the proposed title declaration in any way, you must, **no later than the 31st day of December 2024**, send a Dispute Note to the person giving this notice at the address given below. Form 70B of the Rules of Court may be used for a Dispute Note. You must indicate the reasons for the objection in your Dispute Note. If you fail to send a Dispute Note by that date, a proceeding may be commenced, and a title declaration granted, on the basis that you do not oppose it.

DATED in Fredericton, New Brunswick, this 25th day of October 2024.

John C. Gillis,
Solicitor and Agent for the Attorney General of New Brunswick

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW BRUNSWICK
Legal Services Branch

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FORMULE 70A

Avis d'intention de solliciter une déclaration de titre de propriété

DESTINATAIRES : À qui de droit/propriétaires

SACHEZ QUE :

Le gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick entend solliciter une déclaration de titre de propriété relativement au bien-fonds sis à l'intersection du chemin Jolicure et du chemin Parson, dans la municipalité de Tantramar, comté de Westmorland, portant le NID de 00826941.

La déclaration de titre de propriété recherchée est ainsi établie :

Une déclaration générale de titre de propriété attestant que le gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick est le propriétaire en fief simple absolu du bien-fonds sis au coin sud de l'intersection du chemin Jolicure et du chemin Parson, dans la municipalité de Tantramar, comté de Westmorland, portant le NID 00826941 et désigné comme le Lot 2024-1 à l'annexe « A » ci-jointe.

Si elle est accordée, la déclaration de titre de propriété liera toutes les personnes.

Si vous contestez ou mettez en question de quelque façon que ce soit la déclaration de titre de propriété proposée, vous devez, **au plus tard le 31 décembre 2024**, envoyer un contredit à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessus à la personne qui donne le présent avis et y énoncer les motifs de votre opposition. À cette fin, vous pouvez vous servir de la formule 70B des Règles de procédure. En cas d'omission d'envoyer le contredit au plus tard à cette date, une instance pourra être introduite et une déclaration de titre de propriété pourra être accordée sur le fondement de votre absence d'opposition.

FAIT à Fredericton, au Nouveau-Brunswick, le 25 octobre 2024.

John C. Gillis,
avocat et mandataire du procureur général du Nouveau-Brunswick

CABINET DU PROCUREUR GÉNÉRAL DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK
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SCHEDULE "A"

ANNEXE « A »