

FORENSIC AUTOPSY REPORT

CASE NUMBER: 16

Name of the Decedent: Withheld by family.

Age: Early 30s.

Sex: Male.

Location of Discovery: Edge of Pineglass Lake, Ontario — about 45 minutes north of a small town.

Date and Time of Autopsy: 2025-10-29, 12:57 P.M.

Time of Discovery: 2025-10-26, 07:32 A.M.

PMI: 12-24 hours prior to discovery.

Performed By: R. Amisa, Medical Trainee under Supervision, Moncton Medical Center.

Location of Autopsy: Forensic Pathologist Lab, University Medical Teaching Hospital.

Authority Requesting Autopsy: Office of Medical Examiner.

Summary of Case:

The decedent was discovered floating near the shallow end of the lake, partially entangled in tall reeds. No visible sign of struggle nearby. No phone or wallet found on the body.

Evidence / Observations from Scene:

- A pair of men shoes placed neatly by a few meters from the water.
- The footprints leading to water belong to only one person.
- The lake has a calm surface— no sign of disturbance/ forced entry.
- A partially soaked paper boat was floating nearby, with what appears to be smeared ink writing inside.

External Examination:

Identifying Information:

- **Apparent Sex:** Male.
- **Height:** 5'10"/ 178 cm.
- **Weight:** 163 lbs/ 74kg.
- **Build:** Well-nourished and medium build with slight muscular definition.
- **Ethnicity:** Caucasian.

Clothing:

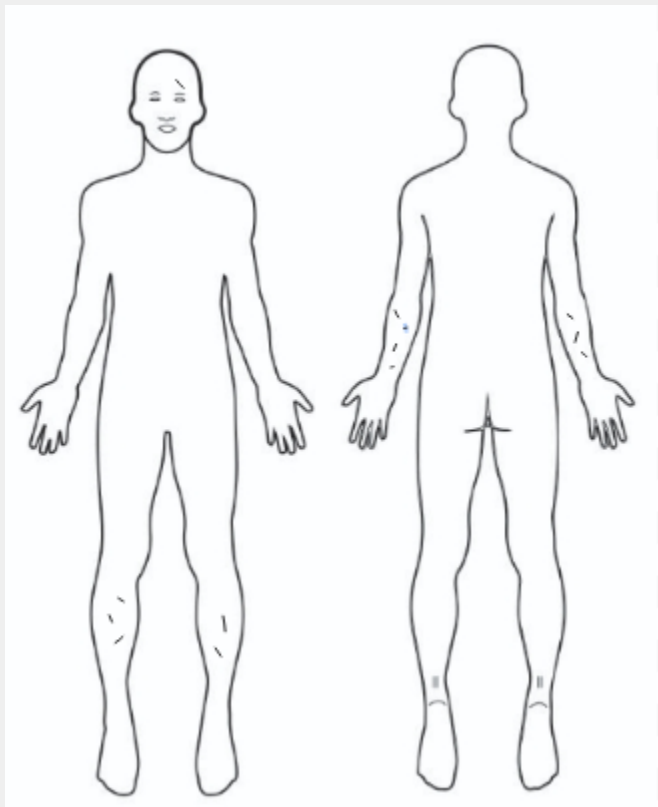
- **Outergarments:**
 - The body is clad in a white shirt, partially unbuttoned with rolled up sleeves. Shirt is waterlogged with lake sediment and torn at right cuff.
 - Dark slacks and no belt.
- **Undergarments:** Present.
- **Feet:** Black socks with no shoes; consistent with the pair of boots recovered at the scene.
- **Accessories:** A silver wristwatch on the left wrist, time stopped at 23:48. No wallet, phone, or jewellery discovered.

Condition of the Body:

- **Rigor Mortis:** Partially fixed in upper limbs, moderate at lower limbs.
- **Livor Mortis:** Present on posterior area, fixed, pale violet in color; consistent with supine position.
- **Skin:** Exhibits early washerwoman changes on hands and feet.
- **Hair:** Short, dark brown, matted with water and lake debris. no visible lesion on scalp; no sign of forceful pulling.
- **Eyes:** Conjunctiva shows mild petechial hemorrhage; closed.
- **Mouth and nose:** Small amount of frothy, white-pink liquid present.
- **Ears:** No external trauma.
- **Dentition:** Intact, no recent dental work.
- **Nails:** Short, slight subungual debris. Traces of lake sediment.

Injuries:

- A linear contusion 1.5 sm on right temple, likely from a fall or accident.
- Multiple superficial abrasions on the anterior forearms and shins, consistent with contact with reed.
- No ligature mark on the neck, ankles, or wrists.
- No defensive wounds present.
- No gunshot or stab wound identified.

**Summary:**

Body shows early signs decomposition changes consistent with submersion in cold water. No defensive wounds discovered externally, aside the faint contusion on right temple.

Internal Examination:

- **Head and Neck:**
 - **Scalp/ Skull:** No fractures noted.
 - **Brain:** Mild congestion, slight swelling. No intracranial hemorrhage.
 - **Neck Structures:** No fractures of hyoid bone or thyroid cartilage
- **Thorax:**
 - **Heart:** Normal size and shape; coronary arteries patent; no thrombi, myocardium appears normal; valves intact.
 - **Lungs:** Heavy, edematous, frothy fluid present in airways, consistent with drowning. No contusions or necrosis.
 - **Microscopic of Lungs:** Alveoli filled with proteinaceous fluid; pulmonary congestions, abundant diatoms consistent with ante-mortem submersion.
 - **Ribs/ Thoracic cage:** Unremarkable.
- **Abdomen:**
 - **Liver:** Dark reddish-brown, soft, no lesions.
 - **Spleen:** No abnormalities.
 - **Pancreas:** Unremarkable.
 - **Kidneys:** Normal, no stones, no lacerations.
 - **Stomach:** No foreign objects or trauma noted. Last meal estimated to be 2-3 hours prior to death.
 - **Intestine:** Normal
 - **Pancreas, adrenal glands, thyroid:** Normal
- **Genitourinary System:** No trauma identified.

Notable Findings:

1. Lungs show typical signs of drowning, heavy, edematous, frothy fluid in airways.
2. No evidence of major internal wounds, gunshot, stabbing, etc,

Table 1.

Organ	Weight
Brain	1,400 g
Heart	350 g
Right Lung	520 g
Left Lung	480 g
Liver	1,500 g
Spleen	150 g
Right Kidney	150 g
Left Kidney	145 g
Stomach	50 mL (partially digested food; last meal estimated 2-3 hours prior to death.)
Bladder	80 mL of clear urine

Toxicology Report:

Specimen Received: Femoral blood, vitreous humour, urine, and liver tissue were submitted.

Analytical Findings:

- **Alcohol:** 0.03 % ; mild recreational level; unlikely to significantly impair swimming ability or judgement.
- **Common Drugs of Abuse:** Negative for cannabinoids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, cocaine.
- **Prescription drugs:** None detected above therapeutic level.
- **Other Toxicants:** No cyanide, carbon monoxide, or heavy metal detected.

Interpretation: Toxicology does not appear to be the primary cause of death, incapacitation. No evidence of foul play via chemical agents. The primary mechanism remains drowning.

History:

- Described as a quiet, introverted man who lived alone after wife passed 5 years prior.
 - Became more withdrawn than usual, avoiding contact with people.
 - Exhibited more restlessness and irritability, according to son.
 - Loss of appetite and disturbance in sleep noted by family.
 - Briefly mentioned feeling “overwhelmed” at personal and work life.
 - Workers reported he has been slightly distracted at work.
 - No explicit suicidal threats.
 - No known recent conflict or financial crisis.
 - No previous self-harming behavior or suicide attempts noted.
 - No history of drug abuse or alcohol beyond recreational wine (Consistent with toxicology)
-

Discussion: The decedent, a man in his early 30s, was found on a shallow edge of a cold lake (5°C). No evidence of disturbance was present at the site of discovery.

External examination revealed faint linear contusion on right temple (Likely from accidental fall) and multiple abrasions on shins and forearms (consistent with reeds in the lake). Internal examination confirmed ante-mortem submersion.

Toxicology identified no chemical present to be lethal or significantly deteriorate cognitive ability. Recent subtle behavior changes noted, along with isolation and mild depression symptoms indicates low moods. Family was unaware of any immediate life crisis that led to this event.

Based on the external, internal, toxicological, social history, and scene findings, death is most consistent with asphyxia due to drowning.

Cause of Death: Drowning

Mechanism of Death: Asphyxia → Irreversible neuronal cell injury → Cardiorespiratory arrest

Manner of Death: Suicide

Evidence Supporting Suicide:

- The lake was free from violent entry and disturbance with the decedent's shoes being neatly placed near the water; the footsteps belonging to only one person.
- The water being around 5°C likely made the body go through cold shock, ending him quickly or making orientation hard. The shallow reeds also could have trapped limbs, make balance difficult— making it hard to escape.
- Change in behavior, exhibition of mild depression and withdrawn, hints at possible suicidal intent.
- Absence of phone and wallet suggests deliberate detachment, intention to minimize clues and interruption; consistent with behavior changes.

Signature

Medical Trainee under Supervision

29th September 2025

Author's Note: This mock autopsy report is based on a fictional case scenario generated using AI, as I do not have access to real forensic cases. The analysis, biological reasoning, and report structure were developed independently. This piece reflects my interest in forensic pathology and my effort to understand mechanisms of death through structured, scientific writing.

