

## NEWS

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### Evidence in Bernard death points to foul play

The Truro Daily News

TRURO – Police suspect foul play in the death of Millbrook elder Nora Madeline Bernard. The 72-year-old was found dead in her Truro home early Thursday morning. Police initially said it was a suspicious death but now say foul play is suspected after examining the crime scene late Thursday.

Staff-Sgt. Randy MacKenzie said photographs and forensic evidence were garnered from the crime scene "which gives us rise to believe that foul play is suspected."

Police continue to guard the home as it investigates the death. MacKenzie said it has not been deemed a homicide, as an autopsy had not been completed.

"The cause and manner of death has not been determined," he told reporters.

Police said yesterday morning it could be between 24 and 36 hours before it hears the results from the medical examiners office.

Millbrook Band Coun. Lloyd Johnson had hoped the matter was not criminal. Friday he was in disbelief.

"Wow, it doesn't sound real," he said.

About 10 officers from Truro and New Glasgow police services as well as RCMP members from Millbrook and Colchester are involved with the investigation.

Bernard was well known in the community and successfully filed a landmark lawsuit against the federal government on behalf of Indian residential school survivors.

She also fought to successfully regain membership in the Millbrook Band following a referendum early this year. She lost the status in 1955 when she married a non-native but garnered enough votes this year to be accepted back.

29/12/07

Past news :

- [December 2007](#)
- [November 2007](#)
- [October 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)
- [August 2007](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [June 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)