

Mysteries of the Marsh

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Holland Marsh

QUICK FACTS



The Holland Marsh stretches across two municipalities: The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and King Township.



The Holland Marsh is around 2,833 hectares of organic land (muck soil) that was reclaimed for agriculture by a substantial drainage scheme.



The watershed for the Holland Marsh is approximately 26,000 hectares.



It has been identified as one of the most fertile agricultural areas in the Province of Ontario.



The Canal system is 28km in length and the Main Drain is 18km in length



Water is pumped from the Main Drain into the Canals, an approximate 2.5m lift.



Scan the QR Code to learn more about the management of the Drainage System.



Bradford
west
Gwillimbury

CANAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project – Overview

- A multi-year, \$25M project to upgrade 28 km of the Holland Marsh canals through relocation, bottom cleanouts, and new guard rails.
- Driven by **life safety** concerns (fatalities along canal roads) and **flood protection** — the Marsh was vulnerable to a 50-year storm event.
- Major work included canal relocation and berm construction near Highway 400 to stabilize roads and prevent future deterioration.
- Canals were excavated several feet deeper to increase capacity.
- Construction began in 2010 and was completed in **2016**.



Canal Improvement Project 2010-2016

The Project included the relocation and dredging of approximately 28 kilometers of perimeter canals





95 Mustang

Discoveries during Construction

Seven Cars & one truck were recovered.

Countless motorcycles and snowmobiles were also recovered.

Miscellaneous Vehicles



Holland Marsh CIP - Finds



A total of 7 safes were recovered during construction.



One safe was filled with dynamite and ultimately destroyed by York Regional Police. One safe was a key component to a murder investigation.



HOLLAND MARSH
DRAINAGE SYSTEM
Joint Municipal Service Board

Accused seemed startled to hear maid slain

BOB MITCHELL
STAFF REPORTER

In his initial police interview as a witness, one of two men accused of murdering a Mississauga maid expressed surprise when told of her death.

Fabian Loayza-Penalzoa thought he was being interviewed about missing tools when questioned by Peel Police on Oct. 10, 2007, nine days after Jocelyn **Dulnuan**, 27, was strangled to death in the 30,000-square-foot mansion where she worked as a live-in maid.

He told police in a videotaped interview played for jurors last week in a Brampton court he never watched the news, and that he barely knew the victim. It's the Crown's case that Loayza-Penalzoa and another tradesman, Cristian Figueroa, killed **Dulnuan** during a planned robbery on Oct. 1, 2007.



Jocelyn Dulnuan's body was found in a Mississauga mansion in October 2007.

The Filipino woman was strangled with a copper wire; her feet were bound with the arms of a sweater. Crown prosecutors Steve Sherriff and Carrie Stoddard contend **Dulnuan** was attacked in the kitchen, then strangled in her basement bedroom during the robbery.

Loayza-Penalzoa, 39, a longtime trusted painter at the mansion, and Figueroa, 37, both from Ecuador, have pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in the murder trial before Justice John Sproat.

The Crown contends **Dulnuan**

was slain during the robbery because she recognized Loayza-Penalzoa, who insisted he was working at another house in the York Mills and Leslie area that day, and to silence her from alerting other tradesmen who were working in the home.

Jurors were told Figueroa, according to a Toronto auto body shop owner, showed up at the shop in October 2007 and asked if he could open a safe. A 100-pound safe — stolen from the mansion along with a laptop and a \$50,000 Rolex watch — was found by York police two years later in a canal near Bradford.

Neither Loayza-Penalzoa's DNA or fingerprints were found on Dulnuan's body nor anywhere in the home. Figueroa's DNA was found under Dulnuan's fingernails.

The trial is continuing.



“A safe removed from the home was ultimately found floating in a canal near Barrie.”

In the mid-day robbery, a safe with jewellery and cash was stolen from a closet in the upstairs master bedroom along with a laptop computer and a Rolex watch.

23/07/2009

More Stolen Safes



Numerous Snowmobiles & Motorcycles



The Challenges of Muck



- There are a number of “soft spots” in Marsh
- Certain areas have less than a foot of muck material, while in other areas the peat is over 80 feet deep



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Unusual Find during Fish Shocking - American Eel

Butternut Tree??



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Elk Antler



On rare occasions vehicles still enter the Canal, and they are removed when discovered.

Questions



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