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## Student might be first North American killed by wolves

Chris Purdy, CanWest News Service

Published: Tuesday, October 30, 2007

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. -- A coroner's inquest began yesterday to determine whether the death of an Ontario student in northern Saskatchewan two years ago is the first documented case of a fatal wolf attack in North America.

"We're hoping the truth comes out," Kim Carnegie of Oshawa said during the first day of the week-long inquest into his son's death.

"We're hoping the Saskatchewan government admits our son was killed by wolves. ... It's hard to have closure when people are trying to lie about how your son died," he said, choking back tears.

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Engineering student Kenton Carnegie, 22, was last seen alive as he headed out for an afternoon walk from a work camp at the Points North Landing supply depot on Nov. 8, 2005.

Two hours later, worried co-workers found him mauled to death, surrounded by wolf tracks.

There has never been a documented case of a fatal wolf attack in North America.

An expert for the coroner's office is to testify later this week that Carnegie was killed by a black bear. Another expert called by the family will testify he was killed by wolves.

Points North Landing is located 850 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

It will be up to the six-member jury sitting in the inquest at a Prince Albert hotel to come to a conclusion and make recommendations to prevent similar deaths.

Prince Albert is 140 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon.

Wolves were known to frequent an unfenced dump, located on Crown land near the Points North compound, before Carnegie's death.

Todd Svarckopf, a pilot for Sander Geophysics Ltd., testified he and a co-worker had to fight off two aggressive wolves with sticks on Nov. 4, four days before Carnegie's death. He said he thought the wolves were trying to kill them.

"They snapped their teeth constantly at us," said Svarckopf.

Svarckopf said when he learned Carnegie, a University of Waterloo student on a work term with Sander Geophysics, had not returned from a walk on Nov. 8, he and others went looking for him.

They followed his footprints in the snow, leading into the woods, and found his body.

"The wolves were all around us howling," said Mark Eikel, an assistant manager at Points North who helped with the search. "It was quite an eerie feeling."

Too scared to stay with the body, Eikel waited in a pickup truck with another worker on a nearby road until an RCMP officer and coroner arrived.

RCMP Const. Al Noey testified he could see glowing eyes in the dark when he finally reached Carnegie's body, which had been dragged several metres from the spot where the other workers found him.

He said he could hear animals moving in the bush, as if they were "trying to get their kill back."

"The body was, like, pretty chewed up," Noey said.

"The top midsection to the thigh -- it was all eaten up."

Dr. Nico Brits, the pathologist who performed the autopsy, testified Carnegie had lost about 25 to 30 per cent of his body mass in the attack.

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## COMMENTS ON THIS STORY

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Donnie McDonald

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 03:16 AM

This is not the first attack in North America by wolves on humans. In Alaska, around the turn of the century there were several people killed by wolf packs.

Justa Thought

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 05:45 AM

One side says it was black bear attack. Although a black bear can/has killed a person - ARE they that far NORTH??? As to wolves taking a kill from them - uh uh. Governments (Canada & USA) hate to admit a wolf pack IS CAPABLE of killing/eating a human. Will do anything to refute it. And to 'reintroduce' the animal seemingly everywhere. I think this IS the first North American killed by wolves. Entirely credible.

Eric Murrey

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 07:06 AM

Perhaps "Wolves Kill Man" isn't politically correct with the Sask government, so they have to prove it was a bear instead. I have seen many TV shows with "nature experts" vehemently stating that wolves will not attack humans. I never believed it for a second. All wild carnivores will attack a human when hungry enough. Why would wolves be any different, or be any less dangerous than, for example, a pack of wild stray dogs. Wolf attacks on humans are perhaps rare, but only an idiot tree hugger type could swallow the Disney style fantasy that a famished wolf pack turns somehow magically harmless- when it's a human they spot traipsing through their neck of the woods. I don't think it's a stretch to believe that this poor young man, Kenton Carnegie, was mauled and partially eaten by wolves.

waypasthadenough

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 08:41 AM

What kind of nutbar does it take to think that wild animals can't be dangerous or won't attack humans? Nutbars that are indoctrinated in 'hug the whales' and 'save the earth' from kiindergarten up, that's what kind. Human beings have lost all common sense and animals are losing their fear of man, thus we begin to look like food to them instead of the top predator.

james boyd

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 09:14 AM

Of course, the stupid environmentalists would contend it was better for the man to die than to interfere with the wolves. I wish the wolves would attack the environmentlists. Maybe someday?

RB

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 11:11 AM

AGAIN the truth is being sacrificed on the 'Alter of Political Correctness'. Folks, the truth is the truth. If the wolves did it, then they did it. I'm sure there was a very good reason our forefathers killed the wolves off in the first place.

Sniper Dave

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 11:28 AM

It is exciting not to be at the top of the food chain.

Chris Ewens

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 11:45 AM

An important point that everyone is missing here: If Carnegie had been armed with a rifle, shotgun or a handgun, he would probably be alive now. In Canada, the government does not trust citizens enough to allow them to carry handguns, so people die needlessly. Even a small caliber handgun would have been effective against wolves.

frostyredbird

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 12:24 PM

The only way to successfully re-introduce wolves or any other carnivores into our present society is to: 1) rip up all the highways and reintroduce dirt roads - 2) eliminate about 3/4ths of the humans now living in North America 3) put governors on cars so they can only travel at 30mph - all to protect the wolf. Carnivores go for the easiest and most convenient prey - no matter if it's a cat, wolf, etc. They aren't vindictive - they are meat eaters - why can't the animal rights cults who are driving all of this (along with the tree huggers - another cult) retrain the carnivores to become vegans? After all, everyone knows that carnivores prefer vegetables... in the meantime, ranchers are losing animals right and left and the feds turn their heads. I would love to see one of these tree huggers nailed by a wolf - stand and watch as the wolf mauled and ate him - listen to his/her screams for help and remind them: oh, they won't bother humans will they? Shoot & bury - unfortunately that can't apply to the tree huggers and the animal rights cults, can it?

Greg

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 12:38 PM

One isolated killing by wolves does not constitute an emergency, and is no way a reason to pack a hand gun. What people should be scared of most is human beings, they are the killers!!

Ike

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 01:15 PM

What's all the hubbub? An unfortunate young man took an afternoon walk and was killed and partially eaten by a wild predator. Where's the mystery? Am I missing something? How is this different than if he was swimming in shark-infested waters? If a dog is capable of mauling a human, why not a pack hungry wolves? Wrong place, wrong time.

Dee Jay

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 01:20 PM

Deepest sympathies to the family of Mr. Carnegie. Just because there is no "documented" account of wolves attacking humans, doesn't mean it hasn't happened. In fact, it is more logical that over the hundreds of years of settlement in all of North America, dozens or more humans probably have fallen prey to wolf pack attacks. As Sniper Dave has mentioned, we are NOT at the top of the food chain.

Fox

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 01:33 PM

"First Documented attack" is a funny statement. For something to be Documented, there has to be a living witness, With a wolf pack, the odds of that are VERY slim, by it's very nature a wolf attack leaves few witness's, if any, This is a combined force that can, and has taken down VERY large animals. I can almost assure this is not the "first" attack in North America by wolves on humans, and certainly not the last. Does this mean wolves are dangerous? Of course, but ALL wild animals are dangerous, especially those looking for a nice, easy meal.

Bruce

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 01:43 PM

This is hardly an isolated attack. Remember the 6 people attack this summer by 1 wolf. Wolves are known man-eaters. The animal rights cult does not want the truth out. Black bear out in the winter all the bears are hibernating. WWF biologist he collect his 30 pieces of silver to blame the bear. The truth is 4 wolves killed Kenton now you so called

expert need to grow up wolves are dangerous man-eaters and have no place around people.

Sadies Mom

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 01:45 PM

Greg, what difference does it make? A wolf or a human being. One should not go into any woods alone, and if they go in alone they should be armed. I have lived in the Mountains too long not to know that there is wildlife in the woods that will eat or kill you cause you are there. Human Beings, bear, wolves, cougar etc. And if you really want to take a chance on your health, walk the National Forest in the U.S. w/o a gun. Our Govt. would rather you die than carry something that will save your life. I steer clear of Natl forest for that reason.

web

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 02:03 PM

There has never been a "documented" case of a fatal wolf attack, according to wildlife biologists, because they have changed the definitions of "documented" and "attack." To be "documented" 1. The wolf must be killed, examined and found healthy. 2. The wolf must never have been kept in captivity. 3. The person must die from their wounds (bites are not attacks according to the biologists). These criteria negate all historical records, from North America, Europe, the MidEast, and Russia. The game director of Iran, Rashid Jarnsheed, a U.S. trained biologist, in *Big Game Animals of Iran* (Persia), states that for over a thousand years, wolves have been reported to attack and kill humans. They grow bold in wintertime, when game is scarce, and will enter a town in broad daylight to attack people, with many cases of wolves running off with small children. "Wolves were a constant threat in France, killing livestock and humans unable to defend themselves: children, the aged, and the infirm. Government and private campaigns resulted in the killing of tens of thousands of wolves throughout the kingdom." (Pierre Roudil. "Fear of the Wolf," *Historama* (France) 1984 (8): 41-45). "Until the end of the 19th century the place of wolves in French folklore and as an object of popular fear was justified by the considerable economic damage they caused and by their attacks on people, mostly children. The number of wolves grew in times of economic disorder and war and due to wolves entering France from elsewhere. Deforestation, democratization of hunting rights, better arms, and better-organized hunts led to near extermination of the wolf by the end of the 19th century." (Alain Molinier and Nicole Molinier-Meyer. "Environment and history: wolves and humans in France." *Revue d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine* (France) 1981 28 (Apr-June): 225-245). The above quoted "democratization of hunting rights, better arms" explains why there are so few reported attacks in North America, and so many in Europe and Asia. In North America, citizens enjoyed a tradition of the right to self-defense, weapons were cheap and available to all, and every man had the right to hunt for food and protection. The situation was very different in other parts of the world. In Europe and Asia, peasants were subject to "gun control," and hunting in the forest was the prerogative of royalty. The peasants' hatred and fear of wolves was the product of their experience as a defenseless prey for centuries.

Joe

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 02:46 PM

Will the truth please stand up? How can someone be so cold-hearted as to generalize all humans as killers as Greg did? Only someone that is sick would say such a thing. This poor fellow was killed by wolves and I am sure the testimony will surely prove that he was. The government will ultimately say it was a bear or blame something or someone else as they always do.

PAT

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 03:03 PM

It is also a known fact that WOLVES have bred with dogs. Resulting in a Hybrid that has o Fear Of Man.

James Solbakken

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 03:35 PM

>>>Greg Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 12:38 PM One isolated killing by wolves does not constitute an emergency, and is no way a reason to pack a hand gun. What people should be scared of most is human beings, they are the killers!!<<< And it is the human predators that clinch my decision to always carry my large calibre handgun with me. One chance in 100K that I'll have to shoot wolves; 1 chance in 3 that I'll have to shoot some human miscreant. So, greg, if you had any brains, you would know that it is better to have a gun and not need it than to need a gun and not have it.

EdintheDesert

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 03:38 PM

And how does the coroner, who saw wolf tracks and should have photographed them, turn them into bear tracks? I have been in the bush long enough to know wolf tracks for bear, and you can usually smell the bear. You might possibly have a chance to outrun a bear but not wolves. Why did this idiot go walking in the bush near a dump where wolves have been seen? No offense to that man or family, but what was he smoking? Anyone the least familiar with the bush knows to carry a weapon, damn the Feds to hell, for self defense and maybe food procurement. Greg previous post demonstrates lack of knowledge of the bush and wolves. If you are going to where wolves have been seen, you PACK A GUN! Do you think the wolves would just leave you alone? Your kind of thinking is what got this guy killed, and you cannot see that?.....oh so sad. Did no person take photos of the site? We need an outright ban on political correctness. Everyone should be given bush survival training and be required to own and know how to use shotgun, rifle, handgun. Hey city folks, Canada is still a very big wild country, or have you not noticed? No, I guess Tim Hortons's and Starbucks are all you know....and these are the ones making the rules...yikes we need to fix that. Send a rule book to the wolves.

YellerDog

Wed, Oct 31, 07 at 04:09 PM

Yep, and hand guns will protect you from people too. Plenty of reason to carry one.

xenon valdez

Thu, Nov 1, 07 at 12:58 AM

When the government does stupid things like this, it only loses credibility. They might as well claim the world is flat. Everyone knows wild carnivores will kill and eat whatever they can when hungry.

skikir

Thu, Nov 1, 07 at 10:49 AM

Let's see, wolves are relatives of dogs. How many times have people been killed by packs of dogs.

George

Thu, Nov 1, 07 at 11:04 AM

It is theoretically possible that a hungry wolf pack could attack and kill a human, even though such an event has never been "documented". What likely happened however, was that the unfortunate man was killed by a black bear, which happens fairly often, and then then his body was mauled and partially eaten by wolves. A tragic tale, but hardly one that justifies all the fuss and conspiracy theories above.

North guy

Fri, Nov 2, 07 at 12:13 AM

I,m relieved the Carnegies can now have some closure from this travesty of an inquest that should have not taken 2 years. Why did it take 2 years to get all the witnesses to come out with the 'truth'? I expect co-workers were worried about liabilities and blame. Many details including those saying Kenton went for a walk in the 'afternoon' are laughable. Kenton left camp at 5 pm from everything I have read before and its almost dark at this time in November by the way at the 58th parallel in Saskatchewan. Can,t be thinking straight to do this if you were told wolves attacked people 2 days before. Don,t believe such a conversation existed because the photos of the wolves don,t look like an attack to me. Those wolves were expecting handouts and no one will want to admit they were being fed and I don,t mean at the self serve dump. Many things don,t add up including the demeanor of the wolves and how they looked in photos with the pilot and his big stick. The guy couldn,t have been checking his airplane in the photo showing the wolf snearing at him. See the lake in the background. I,ve been to Points North many times and the planes just aren,t parked in the bush for Gods sake. Other expert witness testimony that black bears hibernate in October in N. Saskatchewan is normally true. Unfortunately, dump bears hibernate alot later. Have personally seen them at northern landfills well into December and even January. The wolves in the photos as seen on you- tube look like hybrids to me. Been many camp dogs at Points North over the years and would be no surprise to me that a beta wolf bitch in heat would breed with a male dog. Lots of people passing through that place too with dogs, which by the way are not 'pets' in the north. Dogs in the north are normally uncared for, allowed to run lose and fend for themselves and are also culled routinely in northern settlements. Very runty looking wolf in the photo with the guy and 'stick'. I,ve got a small dog that could take that 'wolf. Comments about 'unregulated' landfills as 'investigated and discovered by CBC the last 2 years is also bunk. The only 'regulated' landfills in the north are at the minesites. There is no such thing as a regulated landfill anywhere on crown land in Saskatchewan north. Unbelievable misreporting, testimony, diversionary tactics by all interest groups and its no damn wonder the Carnegies wanted to find the wolves responsible. If I discovered 'wolves' devouring a human its no rocket science that they are the prime suspects. The truth will never be known but now every gun toting redneck on both sides of the Canadian border will be fear mongering as they expound their inalienable rights to bear arms and kill every 'dangerous' animal they encounter. Wild animals are dangerous and education programs are needed for all workers in Canada,s north. Such a sad sad shame and waste of human life. Regarding Paul Paquets testimony...you gotta be kidding me about the 'eating hair at the dump' nonsense Paul. Better take some integrity classes. Back to first comment. This inquest was about closure for the Carnegies and the wolves are the circumstantial blame.

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