

A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: JULY 1967 - MAY 2003

1967

DATE	EVENT
July 13	<p>Romeo's mother Yvonne receives cancer treatment in Toronto. Romeo and his girlfriend, Gail Brazeau go to Toronto and return with her to North Bay by train.</p> <p>They rejoin Donald, who had stayed in North Bay taking care of his younger sister Lucille.</p>
Mid-Late July	<p>Romeo and Gail travel to Toronto. On July 25, Romeo purchases a 1958 Ford convertible in Toronto for \$200.00. They return to North Bay with Gail Chartrand. She becomes Donald's girlfriend.</p>
August 3 Thursday	<p>Romeo and his girlfriend, Gail Brazeau, are stopped by P.C. Austin of the OPP Schreiber Detachment near North Bay.</p>
August 4 to August 5 Friday Saturday	<p>Romeo and Gail travel from North Bay to Gail's mother's house at 248 York St. in Ottawa. Romeo stays at Mrs. Brazeau's house for a day or two before she asks him to leave.</p>
August 6 to August 7 Sunday Monday	<p>Romeo moves in with his sister Francoise Lacasse and her husband Maurice at their home on 106 Sweetland Ave. in Ottawa.</p> <p>Donald, Yvonne, Lucille and Gail Chartrand leave North Bay and move to New Liskeard.</p>
August 8 Tuesday	<p>2:00 to 3:00 p.m. According to her April 4, 1968 statutory declaration, Gail sees Romeo "take off" in his car (in her declaration, she also claims that she saw him between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. the next day, the afternoon of the murder).</p> <p>Early evening. Romeo leaves Ottawa via Highway 17 heading for New Liskeard.</p>

6:30 p.m. Romeo is issued a ticket by P.C. Liboiron of Ottawa OPP Detachment at the outskirts of Ottawa near Britannia Road as he is heading west on Highway 17.

Romeo continues driving west and trades a suitcase for gas at Young's Shell Station in Glasgow, west of Arnprior. He returns to Ottawa (perhaps because he could not afford the gas to get him to New Liskeard).

"That night", Gail Brazeau sees Romeo driving by her mother's residence in Ottawa several times.

Approx. 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. Romeo speaks to Paul Barbe on his porch at 246 York Street, Ottawa. He is observed at this time by Denise Barbe, who is on her way home from the Tuesday summer evening bingo game, and by Gail Brazeau and her mother, Marie Brazeau, from their residence next door to the Barbés.

**August 8 to August 9
11:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.**

Romeo leaves Ottawa. His ultimate destination is New Liskeard, but he decides to visit his brother Armand in Clarkson (near Toronto) on the way.

**August 9
Wednesday**

Daytime. Donald is at work at Connelly Motors in New Liskeard where he is employed as a mechanic.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Romeo arrives at a service station in Trenton, Ontario, likely by tow, after breaking down on the 401. He exchanges his car radio for service to his car. The car radio was subsequently seized by Detective McCombie from the service station.

Afternoon. According to his January 5, 2002 memorandum, Romeo drives to the Toronto area, to visit his brother Armand who is not home. Neighbours tell Romeo that Armand has gone to North Bay. Romeo leaves for New Liskeard.

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Leopold Roy is murdered in his apartment building by an assailant whom Mrs. Roy describes as English-speaking, and "30 to 35, short, 5'2, wearing a dark brown suit, with black wavy

hair.” The police investigation begins. Detective McCombie becomes the officer-in-charge.

Sometime between late at night on Wednesday August 9 and early in the morning on Friday August 11.

Phillion arrives in New Liskeard and goes to sleep in his car outside his brother’s home. His brother Donald finds him there when he goes to work in the morning. Donald gives Romeo some clothes and assists him in fixing his car.

According to a report prepared by P.C. Brown, it was the understanding of the New Liskeard Police Department that Romeo arrived in town sometime during the early morning hours of August 10th. P.C. Bolger’s evidence (infra) suggests he arrived in New Liskeard during the night of August 10-11. Donald Phillion supports Bolger’s version when he tells the police in 1972 that he first saw Romeo on the morning of the day he got a ticket (August 11).

**August 10, 1967
Thursday**

Daytime. The Ottawa Police prepare a composite drawing of the suspected murderer using Mr. Fernand Kerouac as a model.

Mildred Roy is shown a photo lineup, an in-person lineup and a second photo-lineup with pictures of both Donald and Romeo. She examines the photos of the Phillion brothers, and notes that the two men look alike, but that Donald more closely resembles the man who killed her husband.

**August 11, 1967
Friday**

Early morning. Romeo is observed by P.C. Bolger of the New Liskeard Police asleep in his car. Bolger rouses Romeo.

Daytime. The composite sketch is published in Ottawa newspapers.

2:10 p.m. P.C. Dupras interviews several witnesses. Some say they saw a 1958 Red Ford convertible (an accurate description of Romeo’s car) parked in a lot behind 200 Friel Street in Ottawa on Tuesday, and some say they saw it on Wednesday.

4:00 p.m. Romeo mails a letter to Gail Brazeau from New Liskeard, postmarked at 4:00 p.m. on August 11.

McCombie interviews Mr. and Mrs. Barbe, who tell him that they last say

Romeo at their home on Tuesday night (Evidence of McCombie, Preliminary Hearing).

8:50 p.m. Romeo receives two traffic tickets from P.C. Shortt of the New Liskeard Police Department. He takes Romeo's vehicle off the road as being unsafe.

**August 12, 1967
Saturday**

2:00 p.m. Gail Brazeau telephones McCombie and informs him that she has received a letter from Romeo postmarked from New Liskeard. McCombie goes to her residence and she gives him the letter.

4:00 p.m. Detectives McCombie and Coburn drive to New Liskeard with a warrant for Romeo's arrest on a housebreaking charge, and with the intention of investigating him and his brother for the homicide.

11:30 p.m. McCombie and Coburn arrive in New Liskeard and meet with Brown and Bolger.

**August 13, 1967
Sunday**

Early morning. Romeo is arrested on the housebreaking charge by Brown and Bolger.

8:00 a.m. McCombie and Coburn interview Romeo about the housebreaking and the murder. He denies both offences. Romeo tells them that he was in New Liskeard when the murder occurred. We believe he told them about his drive from Ottawa via Toronto to New Liskeard, and his breakdown en route in Trenton.

The officers seize Romeo's clothes (black pair of pants, black shirt, and socks) and his shoes (which had a sticky substance on top) and put them in a bag for expert examination.

Daytime. McCombie and Coburn search Romeo's car and the premises at 48 William St. and find nothing incriminating.

The officers interview Donald and Yvonne Phillion who state that Romeo arrived in town on Monday or Tuesday, then later say he arrived on "February 4, 1967."

McCombie and Coburn obtain Donald Phillion's timecard from Connelly Motors and confirm he was at work on the day of the homicide. They also question two women (presumably Gail Chartrand and Lucille Phillion), who had been in Romeo Phillion's company on August 13, 1967, but neither "could add anything to the investigation and were allowed to go."

McCombie and Coburn drive to Ottawa with Romeo in their custody.

9:50 p.m. Romeo is booked on the housebreaking charges in Ottawa.

August 14, 1967
Monday

With Romeo now in custody, McCombie interviews Gail Brazeau, Marie Brazeau and Paul and Denise Barbe. All say they last saw Romeo speaking with Mr. Barbe in Ottawa on the night before the murder (per McCombie, April 12, 1968 report).

August 14 - 17, 1967

McCombie confirms Romeo's Trenton alibi, and seizes the car radio from the Trenton garage.

August 15, 1967
Tuesday

Romeo is placed in an in-person lineup with 10 other men. Mrs. Roy initially identifies Romeo from within the viewing room. When taken into the lineup room itself, she states that Romeo looks like the man who killed her husband but she cannot be sure.

McCombie records in an investigation report that there is insufficient evidence to charge Romeo with the homicide. Romeo is released on bail on the housebreaking charge and returns to New Liskeard. McCombie also notes that there is very little chance that Mrs. Roy will ever be able to identify the man responsible for her husband's murder.

September 8, 1967

McCombie records that Mrs. Roy has been shown several groups of photographs on various dates and "she had not yet made an identification of a likeness or similarity to the person she saw on the day of the murder."

Mrs. Roy tells McCombie for the first time that the assailant was French, not English-speaking. McCombie records that Mrs. Roy is "in a very confused state of mind and I also feel that she will be of very little value in making an identification should the murder suspect be apprehended."

September 14, 1967 The housebreaking charge against Romeo is withdrawn in the Ottawa Magistrate's Court. Romeo does not appear.

September 15, 1967 Detective Leppan from the North Bay Police calls the Ottawa Police to inquire if they are still looking for Romeo as they have him in custody on a possession of stolen goods charge.

McCombie telephones back and "explained the circumstances to him and that this Department no longer had any interest in Phillion." McCombie also states that there is a traffic warrant for Romeo's arrest that will only be executed if he returns to Ottawa (presumably in reference to Liboiron's August 8 ticket).

November 2, 1967 A Coroner's Inquest is held at Police Headquarters in Ottawa. The jury finds that Leopold Roy died at 275 Friel Street on August 9, 1967 at approximately 2:45 p.m. at the hands of an unknown assailant as a result of a chest wound caused by a knife or other sharp instrument. The jury recommends that a "substantial reward be offered."

November 20, 1967 A reward of \$2,500 is offered for the arrest of Mr. Roy's murderer. A composite photo of the suspect is included on the reward notice.

1968

March 31, 1968 Romeo is arrested in New Liskeard and charged with living on the avails of prostitution of Gail Brazeau, and with assaulting his sister, Lucille. He is detained in the Haileybury Jail.

The New Liskeard Police embark on their own investigation of Mr. Roy's murder.

April 4, 1968 Gail Brazeau gives her statutory declaration to the New Liskeard Police.

Brown and Bolger go to the Haileybury Jail and question Romeo about the murder charge. He denies any knowledge of it.

Brown and Bolger forward Gail's statutory declaration to McCombie in

Ottawa.

Ottawa Detectives Soucie and Black prepare an investigation report “for Det. McCombie” in which they refer to McCombie having “finally eliminated” Romeo and Donald as suspects in the murder.

April 12, 1968

McCombie writes two reports in response to the New Liskeard reinvestigation.

In his earlier report, he first expresses his disbelief of Gail Brazeau’s new account to the New Liskeard Police of Romeo’s whereabouts on August 9. He notes that Gail, her mother, and the Barbes had all told him that they last saw Romeo in Ottawa on August 8, 1967.

McCombie also reports that he has now reinterviewed Gail’s mother, Mrs. Brazeau, who now says she saw Romeo on the day of the murder because she recalled that Phillion had secured an apartment on Friel Street for Gail and himself. McCombie rejects her new version, saying:

It might be noted that at that time [in August 1967] Mrs. Brazeau was questioned at length and on several occasions and at no time did she mention about Phillion obtaining an apartment on Friel Street or of seeing him on the day of the murder.

McCombie further reinterviews Mr. Barbe who states that he remembers “very clearly” last seeing Romeo at about 10:00 on the night before the murder. Likely McCombie also spoke to Mrs. Barbe at the same time.

McCombie next records in his investigation report that:

It was also verified by the Service Station operator in Trenton that on Aug. 9/67, Romeo Phillion had been in the service station between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. and left his car radio because he could not pay for the service call and therefore making it impossible for him to return to Ottawa by 2:45 p.m. at the time the murder was committed.

In his second report for the same date, McCombie states:

It is felt by the writer that Mrs. Roy will never ever be able to identify the person who killed her husband and every picture that is shown to her she makes a comment that there is a similarity but she wished that she could see the person in reality. It is felt by the writer that due to the mental capacity of the deceased’s wife, even if she did see the person responsible she wouldn’t be able to identify him and even if she did, this Dept. would be helpless in charging him with the murder unless there was corroborating evidence and the evidence of identification alone would come under very heavy attack

in the Court due to the fact that she has already identified someone and this was not the person.

April 19, 1968

Romeo is convicted of living on the avails of prostitution and assault. He is sentenced to three years in prison.

1969

January 3, 1969

A double murder occurs near Carp, Ontario for which Donald Phillion is subsequently convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

1970

May 27, 1970

Romeo is released on or about this date on his sentence for the New Liskeard charges.

October 1970

Romeo and Neil Miller, a young transvestite, meet for the first time and begin a stormy romantic relationship.

1971

Romeo tells Miller he was arrested several years before for a murder, and

- February 1971** had been jailed on the charge. He told him he did not do it.
- March 25, 1971** Romeo goes to the police station and tells McCombie that his brother Donald was prepared to confess to Mr. Roy's murder.
- On or about the same date, Phillion tells Charles King, a reporter from the Ottawa Citizen with whom his brother Donald had been corresponding, that Donald wants to confess to Mr. Roy's murder.
- March 30, 1971** Donald is interviewed at Archambault Institution by Charles King. He denies knowing anything about the murder, and believes Romeo is trying to implicate him for the murder to collect the reward.
- March 31, 1971** King publishes the first of three articles about his conversations with Donald.
- April 1, 1971** McCombie visits Donald at Archambault Penitentiary. Donald denies wanting to confess to Mr. Roy's murder, but questions McCombie about its timing. Donald asks the police to take him back to Ottawa.
- April 2, 1971** In his report about the visit with Donald, McCombie states that he believes the motivation for the whole episode was Donald's wish to be moved from Archambault as it might provide him with an opportunity to escape.
- McCombie reports that it is "still" his contention that Romeo was the one responsible for Mr. Roy's murder, but that he could not be charged "due to lack of identification and other evidence."
- June 1971** While trying to get Neil Miller to come back to him, Romeo threatens him and tells him he murdered Mr. Roy.
- Late December 1971 - Early January 1972** Phillion again speaks of the murder with Neil Miller. He first claims that he committed the murder, and then that he did not.

1972

January 6, 1972 Jaine Marulanda, a taxi driver, is robbed at gunpoint by Romeo and David Kellar.

January 7, 1972 While making love with Neil Miller, Romeo tells him that he committed the homicide (see Miller's January 11, 1972 statement).

January 10, 1972 The Ottawa Police search for Romeo as a suspect in the robbery of a cab driver, Jaine Marulanda.

Neil Miller is escorted from his apartment on 1440 Mayview Avenue by Dets. Nadori and Huneault to the station and makes a statement implicating Romeo in the taxi robbery.

January 11, 1972 **10:50 a.m.** Romeo is arrested at his mother's house at 46 Nelson Street for the taxi robbery.

Romeo gives a statement implicating himself in some form in the taxi robbery.

12:07 p.m. Romeo is booked on the robbery charge. On his way down to the cells, he tells Huneault that he murdered "the fireman" on Friel Street.

Romeo agrees to give a full statement to police about the murder if he can first speak to Miller.

1:40 p.m. Nadori and Huneault take a typewritten statement from Miller in which he states that Romeo confessed to him.

2:45 p.m. Romeo is removed from the cells, taken to the questioning room, and allowed to meet Neil Miller.

2:55 p.m. Romeo is given a copy of Miller's statement to read.

3:10 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. The police type Romeo's statement in which he confesses to the Roy murder. Romeo tells them that he stole the murder weapon from the kitchen of an upstairs apartment in the building.

4:12 p.m. Nadori, Huneault, and Det. Sgt. Norton take Romeo to 275 Friel Street and to the Rideau River to reconstruct the homicide.

4:50 p.m. Romeo is returned to the station. He is given a breathalyzer test, and blows .00.

Norton has a conference with McCombie and discovers Romeo is wrong about the details of the homicide.

7:50 p.m. Romeo is removed from the cells, and taken to 275 Friel Street a second time. Once again, he tries to describe the crime.

8:20 p.m. Romeo is returned to the station.

8:39 p.m. Romeo is booked on the murder charge.

10:20 p.m. Romeo calls his mother and tells her he confessed to the murder so that Neil Miller could collect the reward, and told her that he would tell the truth the next day.

10:28 p.m. Romeo and P.C. Couture (who had been listening in on the phone call to his mother) talk about the armed robbery. Couture asks Romeo what he had to do with the murder, and Romeo responds, "Nothing at all."

10:45 p.m. Romeo tells Couture he confessed so that Neil could collect the reward, and to get even and send the police on a wild goose chase.

January 12, 1972

7:30 a.m. Romeo is questioned by Norton, about the knife used in the murder. Norton asks Romeo if he remembers exchanging his car radio for gas in Trenton. Romeo responds that he had asked his lawyer to investigate that possibility, and thinks he was in Trenton at the time the murder was committed. Norton is to later testify that he asked Romeo about Trenton as a result of his review of the police files on the case.

7:47 a.m. Romeo tells P.C. Aldrich, a custodial officer, "I'm a real nut to confess to a murder that I never even committed."**7:50 a.m.** Romeo tells Aldrich, "I have three lawyers that can say that I was in Montreal at the time of the murder."

9:30 a.m. Romeo appears before Swabey, J. in Provincial Court and is remanded to January 14 for a fitness report.

10:20 a.m. Romeo tells Aldrich, "I was three hundred miles away when that (murder) happened, I have three lawyers to prove it."

Huneault contacts Mrs. Roy, Mrs. Brazeau and Mrs. Barbe.

12:30 p.m. Romeo tells PC Bayne, a custodial officer, that he gave the police a false statement so that Neil could get the reward.

Nadori and Huneault contact Dr. Tolnai and discover the hair seized from one of the deceased's hands is missing. Tolnai believes the hair was returned to the custody of the police officers.

4:00 p.m. Arthur Cogan, Romeo's lawyer, meets with Nadori, Huneault and Mac Lindsay, the Crown. Cogan is given "full disclosure surrounding the arrest and parts of previous investigations."

8:00 p.m. Nadori, Huneault, Norton, and McCombie meet and compile a list of things to do in the investigation.

January 13, 1972

Huneault's January 13, 1972 report makes it clear that he has read police reports relating to the Trenton Service station. It is also clear that Huneault is aware of previous statements of the Barbés and the Brazeaus in which they say that they last saw Romeo in Ottawa on the Tuesday night.

Morning. Nadori and Huneault confirm that Romeo received a ticket from Liboiron on August 8, 1967, not, as Romeo had told them, on January 11, on August 9 after the murder

7:20 p.m. Nadori and Huneault confirm that in the summer of 1967 a man exchanged a suitcase for gas at Young's Service Station.

9:00 p.m. Nadori and Huneault interview Mr. and Mrs. Barbe. They give written statements in which they state for the first time that they recall seeing Romeo on *Wednesday* night as Mrs. Barbe was coming home from bingo.

9:15 p.m. Nadori and Huneault go to Mrs. Phillion's house. She conveys a message from Romeo that he wishes to speak with the officers. Romeo told her that he did not commit the murder, and that he was in Toronto at the time with his girlfriend.

January 14, 1972

8:59 a.m. Nadori and Huneault contact Cogan (on Lindsay's advice) to inform him that Romeo wishes to speak with them. Cogan returns the call and informs the officers he wishes to be present for any statement by Romeo.

9:30 a.m. Romeo appears before Hutton, J. in Provincial Court. Dr. Blair testifies that Romeo is fit to stand trial.

2:25 p.m. Nadori and Huneault speak with Mrs. Phillion at her home on 46 Nelson Street. She tells the officers that her daughter Francoise may know something about the murder.

Afternoon. The officers interview Mrs. Brazeau. She cannot accurately pinpoint when she last saw Romeo in Ottawa.

7:00 p.m. Nadori and Huneault interview Mrs. Arkison, the lady outside whose apartment the intruder was observed by Mrs. Roy. She confirms that her apartment was not broken into on August 9, 1967, and that nothing was stolen from her apartment.

January 17, 1972

Nadori calls PC Brown in New Liskeard about Romeo's movements in New Liskeard. Brown agrees to send the New Liskeard file to Nadori. Brown recalls that Romeo told him when he was arrested in New Liskeard that on the evening of the murder, he ran out of gas on a highway near Kingston, Ontario.

9:35 a.m. Mrs. Phillion calls Nadori and tells him that Romeo wishes to speak with the detectives.

January 18, 1972

Romeo's show cause hearing proceeds in Provincial Court. Donnelly, J. makes a detention order. The Ottawa Police receive the New Liskeard Police file from Brown.

January 19, 1972

Nadori travels to Montreal to take a statement from Gail Brazeau. Nadori reports that Brazeau's recollection of events is fragmentary, and that many of her statements contradict those she had earlier given.

Gail tells Nadori that in early August 1967, she and Romeo stayed with his mother for 2 or 3 days in North Bay before heading to Ottawa. When they got to Ottawa, Gail left Romeo and stayed with her mother. She further claims that at 2:00 *a.m.* on the third day she was in Ottawa, she saw Romeo speaking with her neighbour, Mr. Barbe.

The Ottawa Police receive a telex from the Brighton OPP stating that they canvassed all officers who had been on duty on August 8, 9, and 10, 1967. None recall encountering Romeo after he ran out of gas on the 401 near Trenton.

January 21, 1972

Romeo's preliminary inquiry is scheduled to begin March 2, 1972.

Nadori and Huneault go to Toronto to interview Gail Chartrand in Richmond Hill. They interview Trenton service station operators on the way to Toronto, but cannot find the operator who spoke to Romeo on August 9, 1967.

January 22, 1972

On their return from Richmond Hill, Nadori and Huneault stop again in Trenton, and are again unable to find the person who spoke to Romeo in 1967.

January 23, 1972

Nadori and Huneault review Gail Brazeau's and Gail Chartrand's statements and decide to reinterview Gail Brazeau.

January 24, 1972

The officers interview Donald Phillion at Archambault Institution about Romeo's involvement in the homicide.

Nadori and Huneault go to Montreal to reinterview Gail Brazeau in a Montreal police station. She testified at the preliminary inquiry that they questioned her like a suspect. The interview lasted approximately four hours. Gail tells the officers that when she and Romeo came to Ottawa in August 1967 they initially stayed together with Francoise and Maurice

Lacasse. During that time she and Romeo drove by an apartment on Friel Street and Romeo told her that the people there had a lot of money. This is the first time that she has made this claim. Subsequently, Gail left Romeo at the Lacasses and went to stay with her mother.

According to Huneault and Nadori, Gail tells them that the last time she saw Romeo was the evening of the third day she was in Ottawa. He was speaking with Mr. Barbe.

Nadri and Huneault speak with Yvonne Phillion.

- January 27/28, 1972** Nadori and Huneault interview Maurice and Francoise Lacasse who are only able to state that Romeo was in Ottawa around the date of the murder.
- February 2, 1972** Phillion is administered sodium amytol and examined for the first time by Dr. Arboleda.
- February 8, 1972** Mrs. Roy says her memory is improving and she wants to identify Romeo. The police elect not to arrange for her to view an identification parade.
- March 2, 1972** The preliminary inquiry begins. Neil Miller reports getting threatening letters from Romeo. The officers give the letters to the Crown. No use is made of them.
- March 10, 1972** Romeo gives a second written statement to Coburn and Norton. He claims that someone else confessed to him that he had murdered Mr. Roy. Romeo refuses to divulge the man's name.
- May 1972** The preliminary inquiry is adjourned and Romeo is sent to Penetanguishene on a mental health remand following a suicide attempt.
- June 28, 1972** Romeo is committed for trial.
- July 5, 1972** Romeo and his co-accused are committed for trial on the taxi driver robbery.

- September 11, 1972** Romeo is sent to Penetanguishene for a second mental health remand after swallowing three fishhooks on a string. The trial, which is scheduled to commence, is adjourned by Fraser, J.
- October 16, 1972** Romeo's trial commences before Van Camp, J. and a jury.
- October 28, 1972** Dr. Arboleda interviews Romeo for a second time.
Dr. Girodo interviews Romeo.
- November 2, 1972** Romeo is examined by John Reid, a polygraphist from Chicago. Romeo denies committing the homicide. Reid finds him to be truthful.
- November 7, 1972** The jury finds Romeo guilty of non-capital murder. He is sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 10 years. Van Camp, J. orders a post-sentence report to be prepared to assist parole authorities in the future.
- December 1, 1972** Phillion's post-sentence report is completed by M. Newton, a probation officer.

1973

- September 19, 1973** Following a successful change of venue application, Romeo pleads guilty to attempted robbery in Toronto. He is sentenced to 12 years to be served concurrently with his life sentence.

1974

- September 3, 1974** Romeo's appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal is dismissed.
Romeo is granted leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

December 19, 1974

1977

March 22, 1977

Romeo's appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada is dismissed.

1990- 2003

January 11, 1990

Romeo leaves Frontenac Institution without authorization and robs Lloyd's Bank in Kingston of approximately \$2,200.00. Romeo is arrested and charged, but the money is never recovered.

April 9, 1990

Romeo pleads guilty to the bank robbery and is sentenced to 4 years to be served concurrently with his life sentence.

May 1991

Romeo appears before the National Parole Board and asks them to re-open his case, secure a pardon, or obtain a new trial for him. The parole board tells him to apply to the Minister of Justice.

February 4, 1992

Douglas Crane, Romeo's counsel on his two appeals, writes a letter to the Minister of Justice, Kim Campbell, which constitutes the original s. 690 application.

Early 1990s

Romeo applies for the results of the Ottawa Police investigation. He receives a sheaf of documents which are largely blocked out with "19(1)(d)" written on them.

January 19, 1994

Romeo appears before the National Parole Board and tells them that "parole is for the guilty – not the innocent."

Fall 1996

Yvonne Phillion is dying of cancer. Romeo visits her in the hospital and sees his sister Simonne Snowdon for the first time in 25 years. Simonne and her friend Christne Simonelli begin to help him with his case.

- 1997** On arrangement by Crane, Romeo is examined by Robert Russell, a retired RCMP polygraphist. Romeo is found to be truthful in his denial of the homicide.
- Romeo contacts the *Innocence Project* for assistance with his case.
- Fall 1998** Romeo is given a package of unedited Ottawa Police Investigation Reports obtained from the prison security file. The package includes McCombie's two April 12, 1968 reports.
- February 5, 1999** In an interview, McCombie recalls seizing the radio from the service station operator in Trenton.
- November 2001** Phillion's story breaks in the national media. Stories with interviews of Phillion run in the *Globe and Mail* and *Le Droit*, and and Radio Canada's newsmagazine show, *Zone Libre*.
- December 2001** James Lockyer agrees to act as counsel for the *Innocence Project* and to draft Romeo's Section 696.1 application to the Minister of Justice.
- January 5, 2002** Romeo drafts a memorandum which outlines his travels during the summer of 1967.
- January 11, 2002** Romeo appears before the National Parole Board and refuses to be considered for parole. He insists again that "parole is for the guilty – not the innocent."
- February 20, 2002** James Stewart of the Crown Law Office – Criminal is appointed to represent the Attorney General of Ontario on the application.
- May 17, 2002** Phillion is interviewed at Bath Institution by Dr. Turrall.
- August 1, 2002** For the first time, the Crown's files in the Archives of Ontario are viewed. A copy of the Crown Brief is found in the archives.
- September 16, 2002** Phillion is interviewed at Bath Institution by Dr. Gudjonsson.

May 15, 2003

Romeo's section 696.1 application for a review of his conviction is filed with the Minister of Justice.