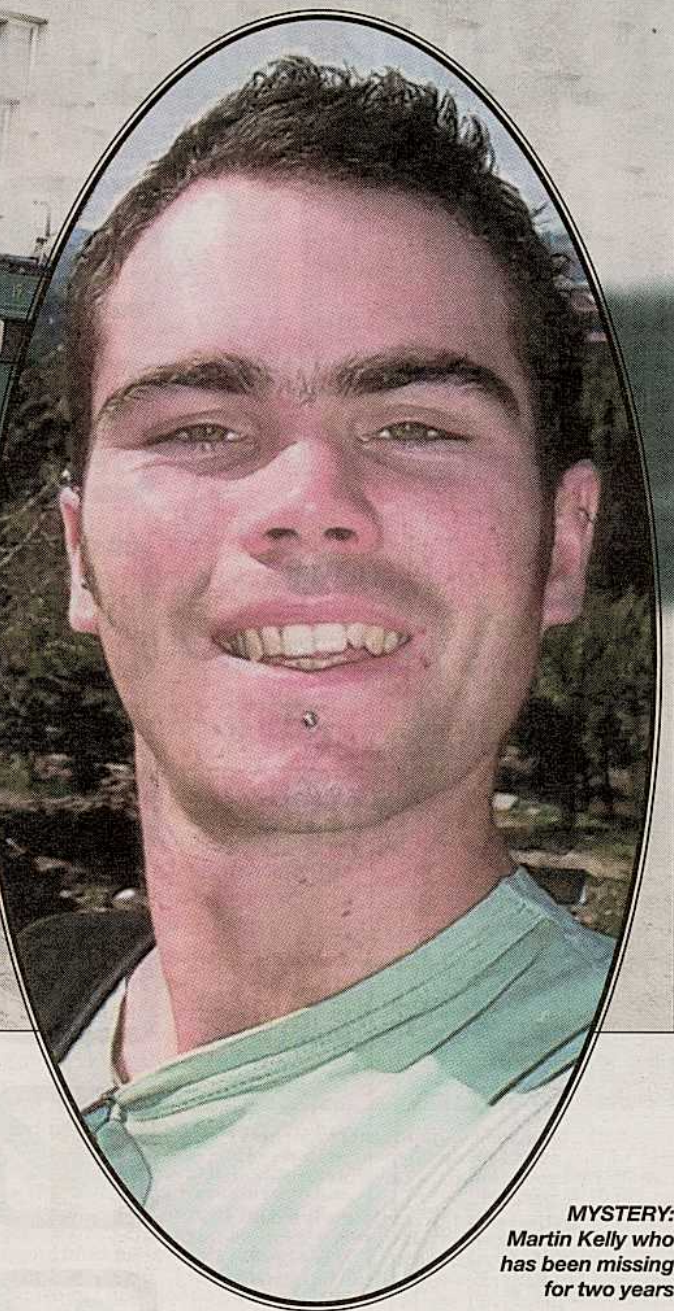


DAD BEGS FOR DRAIN SEARCH FOR LOST SON



SEARCH: Raymond Kelly outside Pat's Bar in Belfast where his son was last seen before he went missing

By JOHN CASSIDY

Father believes body is trapped in storm outlet

THE father of missing Martin Kelly wants the PSNI to carry out a further search for his son's remains.

Raymond Kelly has not given up hope that the body of his 22-year-old son who disappeared almost two years ago will be found.

Now he wants the police, who have recently conducted a root-and-branch review of his son's missing persons file, to search a storm drain in Belfast harbour.

The Victorian storm drain empties into the Harbour St harbour and Raymond Kelly wants it to be

more extensively searched to see if his son's body is trapped there.



drain, which travels all the way up to north Belfast, had been searched before but only at the entrance.

"I would like to see it searched in detail with the use of cameras to check out the full extent of what is a large drain," said Raymond Kelly.

"It is under the water at high tide but it is exposed at low tide and specially trained sniffer dogs reacted to a scent there in August."

Entrance

"There has been a dive and search done at the entrance to it but nothing was found. I would like to get the whole thing searched now to see if Martin's body is trapped there."

Even though many believe Raymond's body has been swept away by the tide, the Kelly family has never com-

pletely given up hope of finding him alive.

Raymond now plans to return to Belfast docks to hand out leaflets seeking information about him, on the second anniversary of his disappearance as he did on the first.

"I still cling to what I call the one per cent chance that Martin will be found still even after all this time.

"I took that expression from something that was said to me when the body of a young man was found near the shores of Belfast Lough at Duncrue after Martin disappeared."

"I was told, before the body was identified, that there was a 99% chance it was Martin, but sadly for another family it was their missing loved one.

"From then on I have been concentrating on the other 1% and not the 99% as I push for the search for Martin to continue."

The PSNI have recently carried out a "full independent review" of the investigation into tracing the whereabouts of Martin Kelly who hasn't been seen since January 1, 2005.

The review was conducted by a team of detectives and experts who examined the two year

investigation file, including all the land and sea searches and enquiries to date.

The team were joined by search and rescue specialists and Belfast's Harbour Master for the review in a Belfast police station.

"A full independent review has been carried out into the case by a team of detectives and experts," a PSNI spokesman.

"They examined the investigation including all the searches and enquiries to date to assess if any further action could be taken."

Exhausted

"It was the view of the review team that at this stage all of the search and investigative opportunities have been exhausted.

"A meeting was set up between Martin's father Raymond Kelly where all of the details of the review were fully discussed.

"Police remain committed and determined to discovering what happened to Martin and to bringing closure to his family.

"The detectives will continue to follow up all new lines of enquiry and any new information.

Martin, an apprentice plumber, was last seen on January 1 2006 after celebrating the New Year

with friends in Pat's Bar in Belfast's Clarendon Dock.

Martin was last seen when he left the bar at about 7.15pm, possibly intending to return to his home in Holywood.

But despite exhaustive searches and a publicity campaign in mainland Britain and the Republic the police and the family have yet to unearth any clues as to what happened him.

And the family are desperate to know if (a) did he fall into the docks and tragically drowned or (2) lost his memory after innocently injured or attacked/

His disappearance has stunned his family who said he had his whole life in front of him and hoped one day to buy a property abroad

His mum Karen carried out a month-long search in England, Wales and Scotland, visiting 14 cities to have his case publicised in the local media.

And dad Raymond headed to the Republic several times in the hope of finding a small scrap of information about his whereabouts.

***Anyone with information about the disappearance of Martin Kelly is asked to contact the detectives**

MYSTERY: Martin Kelly who has been missing for two years

TRAGIC: Karen Kelly with her son Martin