

Edmonton woman killed while cycling on vacation in P.E.I.

By Michael Gregory, edmontonjournal.com
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Elizabeth Ann Sovis, 63, was killed by a drunk driver while riding her bike on a highway in Prince Edward Island Saturday. Photograph by: Supplied, edmontonjournal.com

A 63 year-old Edmonton woman has died after being hit by an alleged drunk driver Saturday while cycling in Prince Edward Island on vacation.

Elizabeth Ann Sovis was riding her bike behind her male partner near Cavendish shortly before 6 p.m. when she was struck from behind by a van.

RCMP Sgt. Andrew Blackadar said the 49-year-old driver initially continued driving for about a half a kilometre after the collision but did turn around and return to the scene.

Several witnesses at the scene identified the driver of the van to police.

“He subsequently was taken back to the police station and failed the breathalyzer,” Blackadar said. “He blew well over the limit and was held in custody overnight.”

The couple was riding on the highway at the time of the crash because there is no paved shoulder.

Blackadar said Sovis was wearing a reflective vest. She died almost instantly at the scene.

Sovis and her partner were on vacation and are believed to have visited P.E.I. in the past.

“This is normal course for them, that they do travel various parts of various provinces on bicycle,” Blackadar said.

The male cyclist was not injured.

The driver of the van is expected to appear in a Charlottetown court to face a charge of impaired driving causing death.

RCMP said they are asking the Crown to hold the man in custody until his bail hearing at a later date.

mgregory@edmontonjournal.com

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