

# Drowned Calgarians 'not drunk' in Mexico, friend says

Elevated levels of alcohol detected in bodies, Yucatan authorities say

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A friend of the common-law couple from Calgary who drowned over the weekend in Mexico is disputing an account from Mexican authorities that the pair was drunk when they decided to go night swimming in choppy waters.

According to the Yucatan State Attorney General's office, toxicology reports from autopsies of 72-year-old James Reimer and his partner, 57-year-old Jan Drake, showed elevated quantities of alcohol in both of their systems.

Daniel Cardenas Rodriquez, the director of communications for the Yucatan office, said the cause of death was suffocation by submersion.



Rodriquez said the report showed alcohol levels that far exceeded what he called the level for complete drunkenness.

But Evelyn Todd, a longtime friend of the couple, said she didn't think Reimer and Drake were so intoxicated.

## 'They weren't drunk'

Todd was with the couple on Saturday evening at a hotel happy hour, shortly before their [bodies were found washed up on the beach](#).

"Oh, everybody had a little bit to drink, but they weren't drunk, you know," Todd said, adding that the couple often went swimming at night. "It's a social gathering."



*Mexican police at the scene of the drowning. Progreso Hoy*

Authorities say the ocean was rough that night, with high winds and strong waves. Officials have not said they were investigating any foul play in the deaths, as there were no lesions or marks on the bodies to indicate such was the case.

Around midnight Sunday, Mexican police awoke friends that the couple was holidaying with to inform them two bodies had washed ashore, and that Canadian documents were found with Reimer's body.

Reimer and Drake lived together for 10 years, friends said. This had been their third winter spent in Mexico together.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade said consular officials in Ottawa and the Canadian Consulate in Cancun, Mexico, were working with local authorities to investigate the deaths.



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