



26-year-old Alberta woman drowns while swimming near Cancun resort

Family describes Rosebud, Alta. native as kind, loving

BY BRYAN PASSIFIUME, CALGARY SUN

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26-year-old Anna Hudson, an engineer from Alberta who drowned near a Cancun resort on Wednesday, Nov. 18. (Facebook photo)

Not knowing is making an east-central Alberta family's tragedy even harder to bear.

Information is coming slowly for the family of 26-year-old Anna Hudson, who drowned Wednesday while swimming at a Cancun resort, and her mother said the family is having to do with largely second-hand information on what led to her daughter's death.

"It's a terrible, devastating loss," Bonita said, speaking from her home in the hamlet of Rosebud, about 100 km northeast of Calgary.

"I can't express how much this is going to affect our lives."

In Cancun as bridesmaid for her best friend's wedding, Hudson had just arrived at the eastern Mexico resort when she and her friends decided to go for a mid-evening swim in the Gulf of Mexico a little after 7 p.m. Wednesday night.

As they played in the surf just off the white sandy shores near Cancun's Iberostar resort, Hudson became overcome by a rip current, overpowered and pulled under. Her friends tried to save her.

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SUN+ heavy rain prematurely ending Wednesday night's search, a statement released by Mexico's Attorney General's office said Hudson's body was located the next morning by a lifeguard almost a kilometre south of where she was last seen, near the Playa Delfines public beach.

While the official cause of death has yet to be determined, official statements suggest Hudson had indeed drowned.

Rip currents are an ever-present danger along the beaches lining the Gulf of Mexico.

The leading cause of beach drowning, the dangerous currents are formed when water from breaking waves is drawn back out to sea through narrow channels between underwater sandbars.

While typical rip currents travel 30 to 60 cm per second, some along the southern gulf coast have been measured at upwards of three metres per second.

Meanwhile, Hudson's tragic death has reverberated across Alberta, with messages of condolence pouring in from both Rosebud and Fort McMurray, where she worked as an engineer for a local energy company.

"She dearly loved her family and friends," her mother said. "She would want them to just continue to be the best people that they can be."

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