


MS
 ▫ Mental Health Counseling
 ▫ Human Resource Management

PhD
 ▫ K-12 Studies in Education
 ▫ General Psychology

EdD
 ▫ Educational Leadership and Management

MPH
 ▫ Health Management and Policy

LEARN MORE ▶

NEWSPAPERS ▼
 LOG IN REGISTER

 SEARCH
 canada.com YellowPages™

NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE HEALTH TRAVEL

Don't Miss: Happening Now Blogs on canada.com Afghanistan: Coming Home Video Centre Census: Interactive Site canada.com on Facebook

Dive master with Calgary woman who died in Mexico says he also felt unwell

By Clara Ho, Postmedia News March 8, 2012

CALGARY - The dive master, who was scuba diving in Mexico with a Calgary woman before she died last weekend, described feeling dizzy and unwell while underwater, but maintains he doesn't know what led to her death.

"I was dizzy in the last three or four minutes of the dive. I was having a super strong pain in the chest. I wasn't really aware of anything," said Jorge Duchateau, adding he had little strength when he surfaced.

However, the diving instructor with Conquest Divers declined to elaborate on the events that preceded the death of Ronda Cross.

"Of course, I feel terrible. I feel this is a tragedy for the family, for Ronda," he said. "I just don't want to point at anyone right now before I have some information from the authorities."

Cross, 41, was diving Saturday with her cousin, Roxanne Amundson, and the guide at a depth of about 23 metres off Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, when Cross appeared to be overcome, possibly by carbon monoxide in the scuba tanks, said her family, who blame faulty rental equipment.

Amundson also reported feeling ill after the dive.

The Mexican publication El Sudcaliforniano reported that Cross died of asphyxiation by drowning. Her family said she was an experienced diver who had 200 dives under her belt.

Cross did not surface with the guide or her cousin, said her family, saying her floating body was pulled out of the water by the crew of a nearby boat.

The guide declined to divulge where he got his tanks filled.

The family has named Sunshine Dive and Charter as the company that filled the tanks, which manager Jonatan Montes de Oca has denied.

"It's unfortunate what has happened, but I have no idea why our name is being affiliated," he said, adding authorities have not approached him. "We are definitely talking to a lawyer to see what can be done."

Meanwhile, Cross's body was returned to Calgary Wednesday afternoon, said her husband, Colin Cross.

A funeral will be held Saturday in Elkford, B.C., where the couple lived part-time.

Colin said he's been frustrated with the lack of information about the investigation into his wife's death.

"We haven't heard a thing from the police at all. It's just driving me crazy," he said.

Colin, also an experienced diver, said in addition to the company that filled the tanks, the dive master should be held accountable for ensuring the tanks' air quality.

He said he's considering taking legal action.

But the main thing is to get the message out for other divers to be careful, Colin said, adding: "Ronda would want this to not happen again."

Calgary Herald

cho(at)calgaryherald.com

Twitter.com/clara_ho

© Copyright (c) Postmedia News