

CFC1 “Mack’s Challenge” Proceeds to the Memory of Linda Davey

'Nothing is ever going to bring Linda back'

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His wife of 26 years is gone, taken days ago in a hit and run only blocks from their Bridlewood home.

And as he grieves, Kevin Davey keeps vigil at the hospital bedside of his teenage son, injured when a suspected drunk driver plowed into the boy and his mother on the sidewalk.

It is not the future the family had sought when they arrived here from England 18 months ago.

Now, Kevin Davey is not only mourning his wife, but he may also have to quit his job so he can take care of his children.

On Wednesday evening, Linda Davey and the couple's son Josh, 15, who has cerebral palsy, were out for a stroll -- something they did often.

Around 8:20 p.m., police say a Dodge Durango crossed over the median on Bridleridge Way S.W., hitting the pair.

Linda Davey was killed.

Family friends say Kevin Davey may have to leave his carpentry job with Legacy Kitchens to care for Josh and his sister Erin, 8.

Sharon Francis said Linda, a director with the Calgary Cerebral Palsy Association, was the primary caregiver for the children.

She described Linda as genuine, generous and "hilariously funny." Francis struggled to describe Kevin's grief.

"Twenty-six years -- how can you put that in words?" Francis said of the couple's marriage.

"You can't. There is no way to describe how he feels. I wouldn't even dare try and articulate it." Josh is confined to a wheelchair due to his cerebral palsy.

It was only recently Josh was in hospital for surgery on his hip -- his cast was removed two days before he was struck.

Josh is a fighter, Francis said, a strong young man who will pull through, she predicted.

The Daveys, originally from Cornwall, England, moved to Canada about 18 months ago.

Now, Linda Davey has been "stolen away," Francis said, leaving the rest of the family in "financial ruin." Meanwhile, friends of the Davey family have set up a trust fund through Royal Bank.

Donations can be made at any Royal Bank in the country to Kevin Davey in trust for Joshua and Erin Davey.

"Kevin was the person who went to work to sustain their life here," Francis said. "How can he continue to do that when he has two children and one in a wheelchair?" Josh suffered internal bleeding due to the crash, which needed to be addressed in an operation, Francis said.

His surgery has gone well, she said, but the teen is still sedated.

He knows his father is by his side, friends say. Josh can hear, his eyes flutter and he can squeeze someone else's hand.

Friends say they understand on Wednesday evening Josh and Linda Davey were walking with a group of people.

It was Linda Davey, they say, who warned the others of the oncoming vehicle. Kevin Davey was not present.

Another victim, a 30-year-old woman, is also recovering from injuries.

Witnesses were horrified by what happened and one citizen followed the truck as it left the scene. He called police after tracking the vehicle and with the help of the HAWC helicopter, the driver was found at a home in the area.

The accused driver, Darren Coupal, faces several charges, the most serious impaired driving causing death and dangerous driving causing death.

Coupal, 36, is expected to make his first court appearance next week.

Francis said she was furious when she heard it was an allegedly impaired driver that struck Linda Davey.

"If one person does not drink and drive again after seeing the horrific effect, then that's got to be a good thing. Nothing is ever going to bring Linda back." Francis said the law needs to be more stringent, with stricter penalties for drunk drivers.

"They need to be made accountable for their actions," Francis said. "Not just waking up every day and thinking 'Oh, you know, that was terrible what I did.'" When the Davey family first arrived in Calgary, they stayed for the first two months with Joanne Dorn, the past president of the Calgary Cerebral Palsy Association.

She said she has not been able to sleep at night since the crash.

"Everything is a blur," she said.

What is clear is how quickly the Daveys made friends. One of those is Naz Harris. She said Kevin Davey is coping as best he can.

"There are moments when he thinks everything's going to be alright," she said, "and there are times when those feelings come in waves and he's just so emotional -- crying, he doesn't know how to deal with it all."