

Woman guilty of drunk driving in boyfriend's death

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A judge has found a Calgary woman guilty of impaired driving causing death after a single-vehicle crash that killed her boyfriend two years ago.

Heather Ann Thomas's high blood-alcohol readings and oversteering caused her to lose control of her vehicle on Feb. 17, 2009, westbound on John Laurie Boulevard N.W.

Thomas was facing four charges, but Court of Queen's Bench Justice Colleen Kenny ruled she was not guilty of dangerous driving causing Jeremy Kilt's death.

Thomas's Chevrolet Cavalier veered to the left, then she made a sudden correction to the right and struck a metal light standard. The vehicle spun off the road and struck a spruce tree.

Kilt, just a day short of 35, died a few hours later from his injuries.

Defence lawyer Alain Hepner previously argued for an acquittal on the charge of dangerous driving causing death. While Thomas's blood-alcohol

readings were up to three times the .08 legal limit, his client showed virtually no effects from the alcohol that morning. Hepner said the crash could have happened even if his client had not been drinking.

A pre-sentence report was ordered for a sentencing hearing, which was set for Oct. 17.

Thomas, called an unseasoned drinker, admitted she consumed three bottles of beer and two shots of tequila while socializing for three hours with friends at Boston

Pizza in Dalhousie that night.

The bar's general manager, a friend whom Thomas drove home before the crash, and several other witnesses, including a paramedic who was with her, did not observe any significant signs of impairment.

Crown prosecutor Kyra Kondro argued the level of impairment was the cause of the collision.

Thomas testified earlier she felt comfortable driving friends home that night.



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