

# Mountie convicted of obstruction in crash

**NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.** • Richmond, B.C., RCMP Cpl. Benjamin (Monty) Robinson was found guilty of obstruction of justice Friday for what Justice Janice Dillon called "a wilfully designed" plan to nullify attempts by police officers to determine if he was impaired when his Jeep was involved in a fatal collision with a motorcyclist.

Robinson was driving home from a party with his two children the night of Oct. 25, 2008 when his SUV collided with a motorcycle driven by Orion Hutchinson, 21, in Delta, B.C. At the party he had consumed five beers.

The accident occurred almost a year after Robinson led the team of four RCMP officers responsible for the notorious Taserling of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver International Airport. Dziekanski died at the scene.

Hutchinson also died at the scene and Dillon noted that Robinson, who was trained in first aid, never approached Hutchinson to offer help. Instead, he told two people who came upon the accident to call 911, gave them his driver's licence, took his children home and put them to bed.

Before leaving home to return

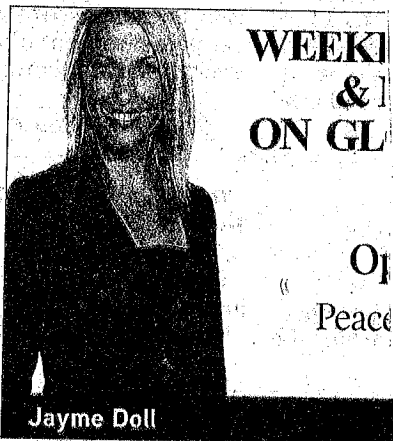
to the scene he took two shots of vodka.

The prosecution maintained he deliberately took the drinks knowing it would skew the ability of police to determine the amount of alcohol he had consumed at the party based on his blood alcohol levels when he was breathalyzed.

He lied to police at the scene and said he had only consumed two beers at the party, said Dillon.

His defence was that he was an alcoholic and he took the vodka as an auto-response "to suppress the pain."

— Postmedia News



Jayme Doll