

Two women dead in separate, suspicious incidents

Postmedia News

Princeton RCMP are treating a 56-year-old woman's death as suspicious, according to a statement issued by the federal force.

Mounties attended a home on Osprey Lake Road Wednesday to conduct a well-being check on the woman. Investigators found her dead inside. The statement notes the home was secure.

"The investigative findings to date lead investigators to believe that her death is suspicious," Cpl. Dan Moskaluk said.

When questioned, Moskaluk said labelling the death as suspicious is precautionary.

He did not provide any details as to a potential suspect or suspects.

Princeton is about 250 kilometres from Armstrong, the

North Okanagan town where 18-year-old Taylor Van Diest was killed on Halloween night. Police still do not have a suspect in that case, and have not confirmed that a letter claiming responsibility for the death is authentic.

In another incident, a man is in custody after a woman found injured in a street of a northern B.C. village died in hospital, according to RCMP. Smithers Mounties, B.C.

Ambulance Service and the area fire department rushed to Telkwa — 15 kilometres south of Smithers — in response to calls for help early Friday morning.

Investigators are treating the death as criminal and a man found at the scene is in custody, Moskaluk said.

Criminal charges against the man had not been approved by the Crown as of late Friday.



NICK PROCAYLO, POSTMEDIA NEWS

Michael Schratte arrives at Rogers Arena in Vancouver after 469 days cycling around the world.

Cyclist home after yearlong ride for mental health

VIVIAN LUK
Postmedia News

VANCOUVER — Cyclist Michael Schratte, who biked across the world for more than a year to raise awareness about mental illness, came home Saturday to a crowd of cheering supporters.

Schratte, 42, began his trek in August 2010. He biked across six continents and 33 countries to banish the stigma associated with mental illness, which affects one in five Canadians, according to the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Red-faced and wet from the rain, Schratte said he felt euphoric, safe and a huge sense of community as he was hugged and greeted by dozens of his supporters at Rogers Arena in Vancouver.

"At a selfish level [I rode] for myself," said the elementary school teacher, who was diagnosed with a mild form of bipolar disorder in 1990. "[Also] for the people in the Downtown Eastside who don't have the resources ... to get out of the situation, for the students I've seen struggle, and to just end the BS, the misunderstanding and the misconceptions [about people with mental illnesses]."

Schratte said at each stop of his trip, curious locals would ask about his "Ride Don't Hide" shirt and he would tell them about his cause.

"Suddenly you're talking about these issues," he said. "It's almost like you can see this audible lift off their back, because of the stigma, because they could not readily share their family history or their story of a loved one dealing with mental illness."

While it was difficult for him to manage the extreme emotions cause by his disorder, Schratte said having to hide the illness was more debilitating.

"If you walk into work tomorrow with a cast on your arm, you're going to get empathy and storytelling — 'I hurt my arm skiing or mountain biking,'" he said. "You can't walk into work tomorrow, I'm guessing, and say, 'Sorry I missed last week's work. I had a schizophrenic episode.' You talk like that and you clear the water cooler; you're not invited to the Christmas party."

Schratte raised more than \$65,000 during his trek for the Canadian Mental Health Association.



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