

Depressed driver found guilty in Calgary hit and run

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A Calgary man who said he was so depressed that he couldn't recall mowing down a pedestrian has been found guilty of leaving the scene of a fatal accident.

On Wednesday, Court of Queen's Bench Justice Allen Sulatycky rejected Colin Jones' defence that he didn't remember and said Jones deliberately chose to ignore the fact he had run over a pedestrian.

Lindsay Giacomelli, 20, died after being hit by an SUV on Bonaventure Drive near Southcentre Mall in March 2005. Witnesses said her body flew 22 metres down the road.

Five days after the accident, Jones was picked up by police at the Toronto airport as he was about to board a plane to England.

After the verdict, defence lawyer Balfour Der said Jones still maintains he does not remember hitting Giacomelli and would have pleaded guilty if he could remember the accident.

"The man says he doesn't have a memory. He's been consistent with that throughout," said Der.

Crown prosecutor David Torske said he wasn't surprised with the guilty verdict.

"We took the position right from the start of this case that the police service had done a fantastic investigation, that they had the right person and he ought to be held accountable and responsible. And he has been."

In court, Der argued that his client couldn't be found legally responsible for her death because he was clinically depressed at the time and doesn't remember anything about it.

On the day of the accident, Jones was stressed out from work and the breakup of his marriage. He had had two or three beers, and had gone off his medication.

Jones is to be sentenced on May 15.



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