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Investigation continues into fatal buggy crash

The Ontario Provincial Police remain mum on further details regarding a fatal collision on Highway 10 over the weekend involving a minivan and a horse-drawn buggy which left a five year old girl dead.

Melinda Bowman, 5, of Grey Highlands, was pronounced dead at the hospital when her horse-drawn buggy, which Police say was carrying a total of nine individuals, collided with a Pontiac Montana minivan.

?Alex Silk, 20, from Belleville has been charged in connection to [the] fatal collision on Highway 10 in the Municipality of Grey Highlands involving a 2005 Pontiac Montana minivan and a horse-drawn vehicle,? said Alina Grelik, Media Relations Officer for the OPP's Grey County detachment, in a statement.

Both vehicles were travelling southbound on Highway 10 when the crash occurred just after 9.30 a.m. on Sunday morning. The highway was closed between Road 180 and Road 190 for the investigation, which continues this week.

?Silk, who was a passenger in the minivan, is facing charges of Criminal Negligence Causing Death and three counts of Criminal Negligence causing bodily harm,? Grelik added, noting he was to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Owen Sound on Monday. ?There were nine persons in the horse-drawn vehicle at the time of the collision: four adults and five children ranging from eight months to five years of age. [Melinda] was pronounced dead at the hospital. A post-mortem was conducted on the deceased April 4 in London.?

Additionally, a 26-year-old woman from Southgate was airlifted to hospital in Toronto where she is in critical condition. The remaining seven occupants of the buggy were released after receiving treatment in hospital.

The minivan's driver, a 60-year-old male from Marmora and Lake, ON, received minor injuries.

Grelik told the Shelburne Free Press that the circumstances of the crash could not be released at this time to ?protect the integrity? of the investigation.

Police are asking anyone who may have information concerning the collision to contact the Greg County OPP at 519-794-7827 or 1-888-310-1122.

By Brock Weir