

Metro

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Edmonton man cycling cross-country in honour of wife's dream



By **Heather McIntyre** Metro Edmonton



Edmund Aunger Sr. and Elizabeth Sovis began taking three-week cycling trips each summer about a decade ago. Courtesy Edmund Aunger Sr.

Each summer for the last decade Edmund Aunger Sr. and Elizabeth Sovis would take a cycling trip, often on the Trans Canada Trail.

But moments after the Edmonton couple left the trail while riding on Prince Edward Island last July, Sovis, 63, was struck and killed by a drunk driver.

According to her husband, Sovis had always been dismayed at the impassable and incomplete sections of the trail, and disliked having to travel on roads and highways. She had planned to retire this summer in order to promote the development of safe cycling trails in Canada.

Instead, Aunger is taking up her cause by riding the Trans Canada Trail over five summers.

The first leg, from Victoria, B.C. to Edmonton, began July 1 and ends Sunday.

“I really feel, not only for her but for me, I have to do something,” said Aunger, 64. “This was really her dream; it was something she was planning to do. So it’s important to me because of that.”

Aunger’s son, Edmund Aunger Jr., is one of many people who have joined him for a part of his journey.

“I think it’s amazing, and I’m definitely very proud that he is doing it,” he said.

Family and friends will join Aunger – and others are welcome – on Sunday, leaving Devon at 9 a.m. and arriving at the Alberta Legislature for a rally at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit ridethetrail.ca.

2017

- Slated for completion in 2017, the [Trans Canada Trail](#) will stretch nearly 24,000 kilometres through every province and territory. To date, nearly 17,000 kilometres are operational.