Boy back home after being hit by lightning

Ten-year-old Mike Franchetto admits he used to cower a little during thunderstorms.

But now that he's actually been struck by lightning, the Grade 5 student has lost his fear.

"I used to be afraid (of thunder and lightning), but no more fear," he said yesterday, after arriving back at his Oakville home from hospital.

Mike's family and friends were waiting there with a party, a week after his brush with death.

Last Wednesday afternoon, the boy was riding his bike behind a school across from his home when a thunderstorm came up suddenly.

A bolt of lightning hit the field and struck Mike, knocking him unconscious and burning his face, ear and shoulder.

After a brief stop at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH), he was airlifted to the Hospital for Sick Children.

The youngster said he had no recollection of the incident.

"I didn't feel nothin'. I didn't remember nothin'. All I remember is waking up in the hospital," Mike said.

His mother, Betty, said she didn't know what to expect when she learned her son had been struck by lightning, which kills about a dozen Canadians each year, according to Environment Canada.

His mother said she's delighted he has recovered so quickly.

"He's stronger than I could ever imagine," Franchetto said, adding that Mike has been walking, bathing his wounds and peeling burnt skin from his body himself.

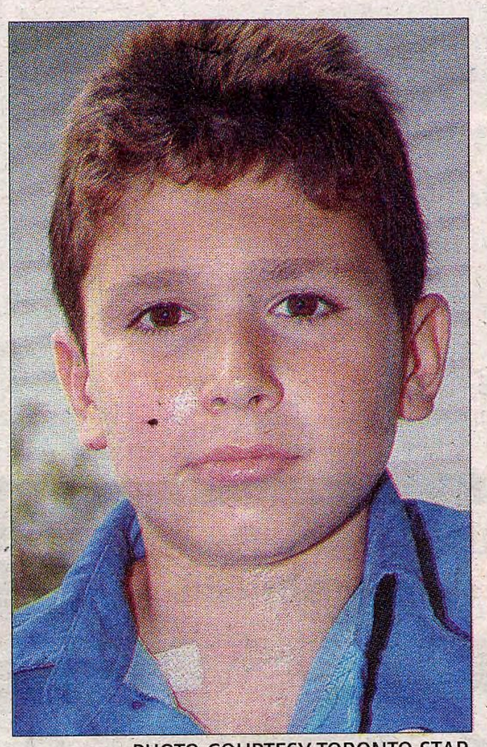

PHOTO COURTESY TORONTO STAR

Mike Franchetto

"The nurses had never seen that before. I don't know if I could ever be that strong, to just sit in a tub and peel the skin off myself."

Franchetto said Mike still feels soreness in his upper right arm, near where the lightning hit, but he probably won't need a graft to heal his damaged skin.

"I feel great that I'm home. It hurts a little on my arm," he said.

Franchetto said Mike will return to Sick Kids tomorrow for a short appointment.

Other than that, she said, she'll treat him at home with "a lot of love and (skin) cream every four hours."

Mike said he has no idea what he wants to be when he grows up, but after his firsthand experience at the hospital, the medical profession holds some interest.

– Torstar Wire Service

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We'll also look at the proper way to do a Reverse Mortgage, while making the interest tax deductible.

Saturday, June 25, 2005 Morning: 10:30 am
Burlington Art Centre (Shoreline Room) 1333 Lakeshore Rd at Brock, Burlington
To reserve your seat, call Paula 905-336-9941
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