

INDEPENDENT 09/19/05

Colborne lad making progress

Connor Ferguson is much closer to his dream of independent walking, after his one-month stay in Poland.

His day started at 7:45 a.m. and ended at 1:30 p.m. This was his schedule six days a week for 28 days. The therapy was quite intense, and sometimes hard to watch.

Connor would push himself to work as hard as he could, even as tears rolled down his face. While wearing the Adeli Suit, he also wore weights on his little ankles and was then asked to perform walking tasks in crutches. He did push-ups with sandbags on his back, knee walking, ball exercises, also a few unique forms of therapy - one called UBSB (otherwise known as Spider), another UGUL (stretching exercises with bungee cords, pulleys and weights) and Shoes (vibro-stimulation). These forms of therapy are quite amazing to observe, but difficult to explain.

I had the opportunity to try the Adeli Suit on; the pressure it added to my body made it hard to walk, stand, sit or to just perform the day to day activities that we take for granted and that Connor works so hard to achieve. However, the suit is used to correct posture, position, gait



Connor Ferguson in a special suit that helps strengthen his muscles so that he is able to walk.

and weight bearing on those with cerebral palsy.

After one month of intensive therapy, he learned to walk with crutches. When he first discovered he could do this, the expression on his face was worth more to us than we could ever explain. He was so proud of himself, as he had every right to be. It was incredible!

Our experience in Poland was wonderful. Connor's body is stronger than before.

Not only can he walk in his new, red crutches, he is also able to walk holding just one caregiver's hand. The abilities Connor gained in Poland may seem small to those who don't know him, but each small gain is one gain closer to further his independence.

We would like to visit Poland again one day. Many kids who visit Euromed do so regularly and say without it, they wouldn't be where they are now. One 15-year old boy couldn't walk in his walker last October, but after four sessions, he is walking quite independently in crutches. His inspiration and Connor's newfound abilities will bring us back one day. Until then, Connor will be doing the therapy at his Physio-Centre in Oshawa, as well as working at home using the therapy we learned in Poland.

Our wish of taking Connor to Poland to help battle the effects caused by cerebral palsy came true, all thanks to each and every one who put forth time and energy or made donations to The Connor Ferguson Fund.

Thank you.

Connor Ferguson and His Family
Colborne

Body of missing Colborne man discovered

by JOHN CHAMBERS
The Independent

A Colborne-area man who went missing Oct. 4 was found dead last Friday morning in a wooded area near the Village of Colborne. Following a post mortem at the Lake Ridge Health Centre in Oshawa, police identified the deceased as 39-year-old Michael Dixon. Officers with the Northumberland OPP began their investigation into the sudden death of an adult male after police received reports a body had been discovered in the wooded area. Constable McKay with the Brighton detachment said the OPP have wrapped up their investigation. "It is no longer being investigated, and we are not releasing whether it was suicide or not; it was just non-suspicious in nature," she said. While police are refusing to elaborate on the cause of death, Constable McKay did say there are no safety issues for area residents. Mr. Dixon was reported missing Oct. 4, and neither his friends nor his family had heard from him for more than a week, which police had described as unusual at the time. Police wouldn't comment on how long the body had been in the wooded area before they received information leading them to the scene. Constable McKay said officers have completed their investigation into the disappearance and subsequent death of Mr. Dixon.

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PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

OCT 13/05
HAVING A BLAST
A solitary sandblaster removes the peeling paint from the mural on the west wall of the Queen's Hotel in Colborne. The cost of removal of the paint has been under dispute for many months and was a matter of in camera discussion at the October 4 meeting of Cramahe council. Township clerk-administrator Trudy Merrill announced on October 5 that an amended agreement has been signed and details will soon be made public.

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Dixon, Michael George
Cherished son of Brenda Lambier and stepson of the late Russell McGregor. Loving brother of Jack Lambier (Melissa), Eise Dixon (Ron), Michelle (John) Sabins, Cherished uncle of Nicole, Shane, Michael, Robert, Jamie, Anthony, Mackenna, and Isaiah. Dear Nephew of Margaret Dixon and William Dixon. Mike will be missed by many cousins, friends and family. Visitation will be held at MacCoubrey Funeral Home, 11 King St., West, Colborne on Thursday October 20th, 2005 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. A funeral service will take place at the funeral home on Friday, October 21st, 2005 at 2 p.m. Cremation is to take place. Interment at Mount Hope Cemetery, Brighton at a later date. Donations can be made by cheque to the Canadian Diabetes Association. Condolences received at www.maccoubrey.com. "Mike will always be missed and always be holding a special place in our hearts."