

Accident victim a true family man

John Atkinson died in motorcycle accident June 25

By Lindsey Cole
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NORTHUMBERLAND - John Atkinson would drop anything for the chance to visit his eight-month-old granddaughter Nikka.

He would jump on his beloved 2008 Suzuki motorcycle and ride to the chip truck where he and his daughter, Erin Kaufman, would play with the little girl.

His family meant the world to him. Nothing could come between them, says his daughter. The two talked every day.

The 54-year-old Bailieboro man was killed Wednesday, June 25, after his motorcycle struck a car on County Road 25, east of Castleton. Ms. Kaufman was the last person to speak with him before the accident. She had called him on his cellphone. As usual, she said, "I love you."

Northumberland OPP said the accident, which happened around 6:45 a.m., occurred after a 72-year-old Colborne man pulled his Volkswagen Jetta out of a driveway and into Mr. Atkinson's path.

While news of the accident has left the family devastated, Ms Kaufman says she doesn't

regret him buying that bike.

"His motorcycle was his break. He just finished his motorcycle course. He loved the darn bike."

Mr. Atkinson was the father of three children - Erin, Jaclyn and Jayson. His daughter Jaclyn has lived in Korea for the past six years. She is heading home to be with family, Ms. Kaufman says.

She takes a moment to reflect on her father, a man who she says was well liked within the community.

"He was very honoured and respected. He was a gentleman. He was a really great guy."

A farmer at heart, Mr. Atkinson lived in Bailieboro for the past 16 years. He used to raise sheep and hogs but currently farmed beef cattle.

He also ran Atkinson Farming, Custom Services and Tree Removal, a business that kept him busy on weekends.

"He was a hard worker. He was just kind and caring. He would give the neighbours the shirt off his back."

What's more, Mr. Atkinson was the type of man who was devoted to his family, which

included three sisters and two brothers. He also kept in touch with his 87-year-old father every day.

"My dad was the type of guy who got up at 5 a.m. He called his dad every morning at 6 a.m."

While he wasn't an outwardly religious man, Ms. Kaufman says he had firm Christian beliefs.

"He wasn't a religious man but he believed in God. Everyone knew where his heart was," she says.

"Everyone has a time and my Daddy's time had come."

The visitation for Mr. Atkinson was held Sunday at Walas Funeral Home, 70 Church St., Warkworth.

A funeral service was held at the Presbyterian Church in Warkworth.



John Atkinson

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Congratulations!
Dennis & Julie Wamsley

ATKINSON, John Warren - Suddenly as the result of an accident went to be with the Lord on June 25th at the age of 54. Dearest father of Erin Kaufman (Craig) of Oakville, Jackie of Seoul, Korea, and Jayson of Morganston. Loving Papa John to Nikka Kaufman. Son of Ambrose and Joanne Atkinson (Warkworth). Brother of Janet Elgie (Eldon), Brian (Suzanne), Sid (Karen), Mary Hewgill (Paul) and Pauline McWilliam (Gord). Sadly missed by his nieces and nephews, Johanna and Jordan, Mason, Gareth, Carrie and Tyler, Mark and David, Andrew, Katie and Aaron, Morgan, Emma and Ethan. Remembered by the Saddler family. A service will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Warkworth at 1 p.m. on June 30th. Visitation to be held at the Walas Funeral Home, Warkworth, Sunday June 29th from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Those wishing may make a donation on behalf of the Canadian Alzheimer's Association on behalf of the family.

TACKABERRY, Winnie Marjorie at Campbellford Memorial Hospital on June 24, 2008 in her 80th year. Beloved wife for 60 years of Donald Tackaberry of Warkworth. Loving mother of the late Donna Elaine, Dianne & Gary Prentice of Cobourg, Doug Tackaberry & Diane of Cloyne, Darlene & Grant Waters of Cloyne, Sandra & Elwood Mitchell of Warkworth, Lori Caverly of Belleville and Larry & Gale Tozek of Bath. Dear grandmother of 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Weaver Family Funeral Home, 77 Second St., Campbellford, ON. Donations to Campbellford Memorial Family. Online Guest Book & Condolences at weaverfuneralhomes.com 11742388

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