

# Great soccer —but no cigar

**Season ender** — The Castleton Sports Club squirts played a good game, but still lost 2-1 to the Warkworth Service Club last Wednesday in Warkworth. The team is, front, l-r: Laura Atchison, Raymond, Nakonechny, Jennifer Scott, Ashley Jakobi; back, l-r: Chris Clarey, Tyler Clarey, Justin Tucker, Kenny Duthie, Nathan Brockwell and Julie Scott (coach). Not in photo is assistant coach Al Brockwell. Photo by Mark Hoult

COLUMBIAN CHARITABLE  
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## Dog attack leaves mental, physical scars Castleton family asks for understanding, co-operation

By Eileen Argyris

Many small children are afraid of large dogs, but for the Bryans children of Castleton, their terror of dogs is the understandable consequence of a horrifying experience.

The five-year-old twins, a girl, Courtney, and a boy, Christopher, are "paranoid" about dogs, says their mother. Especially big dogs, running free, since Christopher was attacked and mauled, nearly to death, by two Rottweilers a year and a half ago.

The whole Bryans family, in fact, has had a hard time dealing with dogs since that time.

The children attend Castleton Public School, the twins in kindergarten and their older sister, Tiffany, in Grade 2. School principal David King says there have been some problems with large dogs from Castleton running free on the school property, frightening many of the children.

But, when he realized the degree to which the Bryans children are traumatized by the sight of loose dogs, and the reason why, he enlisted the help of the newspaper in telling the children's story to a community that, he hopes, will respond by keeping dogs on a leash or inside fenced enclosures as, indeed, Cramahe Township bylaws demand.

The children's parents, Mari and Ed Bryans, purchased KB trailer park, just outside Castleton, this past summer. Mari Bryans tells the story of Christopher's near-fatal attack by dogs.

The incident happened in January of 1992. Tiffany was at school. Mrs. Bryans was at her home, near Lindsay, with the three-and-a-half-year-old twins and a two-year-old nephew she was caring for that day.

She had just put the twins out in the front yard of their house to play in the snow. She was inside, adjusting a warm scarf on the neck of her nephew, preparing for him to join his cousins outside.

"They had just gone out and I heard Christopher scream. I thought he must have fallen down the steps," she recalled. - There were two concrete steps outside the door.

She looked out to see Christopher face down in the snow, with two huge dogs on top of him.

Heedless of the fact that one of her feet was bare, recovering from an injury, she ran out into the snow to rescue her son.

At first, the dogs did not respond to her frantic efforts to command or drag them off the little boy. Remembering her

kitchen broom, she ran back into the house and came back out to begin beating the dogs off the child, screaming at them to drop him and go away.

By this time, they had dragged the child 30 feet.

All the while, Christopher's twin sister stood watching the attack, paralyzed with fear on the steps of the house.

"It was a 15-minute battle between the dogs and myself — a tug-of-war."

The dogs, she remembers, were snarling with bared teeth and both were foaming at the mouth.

Mrs. Bryans succeeded in separating Christopher from the dogs by "smacking one over the head, and as the other lunged," she grabbed the child and started to hop backward, still barefoot, toward the door.

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