

Good-hearted neighbours rally to help pooch

Family pet will make full recovery

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

A Campbellville family found a unique way to thank a group of good Samaritans who stopped to help their seriously-injured pet dog Amber.

Husband and wife Christopher Milton and Kirsten Pedersen of Guelph Line posted a sign on their lawn to show their appreciation to neighbours and passersby who rushed their 175-pound English mastiff to the Brookville Veterinary Clinic after it was struck by a car.

While the driver fled the scene, a motorist towing a horse trailer stopped to transport the yelping canine from the ditch to an animal hospital. Following surgery, Amber is on the road to recovery.

"I was really appreciative," Mrs. Pedersen said. "Most people wouldn't go out of their way to do that sort of thing."

New to the area, Mrs. Pedersen was raking leaves at about 9 a.m. Sept. 21 when three-year-old Amber was struck. The couple hadn't yet erected a fence at their new home. Mrs. Pedersen said she was calling for Amber when she heard the screech of car tires and a dog yelping.

"Six people had stopped by the time I had gotten down my driveway," she recalled.

Neighbour Wolf Dams was in his house painting when he heard the collision and rushed to the scene.

"The dog was bleeding and one leg was

sort of hanging off," said Mr. Dams, who at first feared his own dog had been struck.

Mr. Dams and others helped load Amber into the trailer, which also held a horse.

The bruised and banged-up dog suffered bleeding lungs and a fractured right leg that required major surgery.

Dr. Stephen Ball of the Brookville Veterinary Clinic said he brought in an orthopedic surgeon to perform the three-hour operation, which included the insertion of a steel plate. "In a dog that size, it's

pretty serious," he said.

Today a limping Amber is expected to make a full recovery, but she's a little depressed about her current lack of mobility, Mrs. Pedersen said.

Since the accident, Mrs. Pedersen said her household has been flooded with calls from concerned neighbours wanting to know how the dog is doing.

Unable to personally thank the unidentified helpers, the couple decided a sign was the best way to get their message across.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Kirsten Pedersen and Christopher Milton, with daughter Alex and dog Amber, are thankful for the kind people who helped their injured pet.

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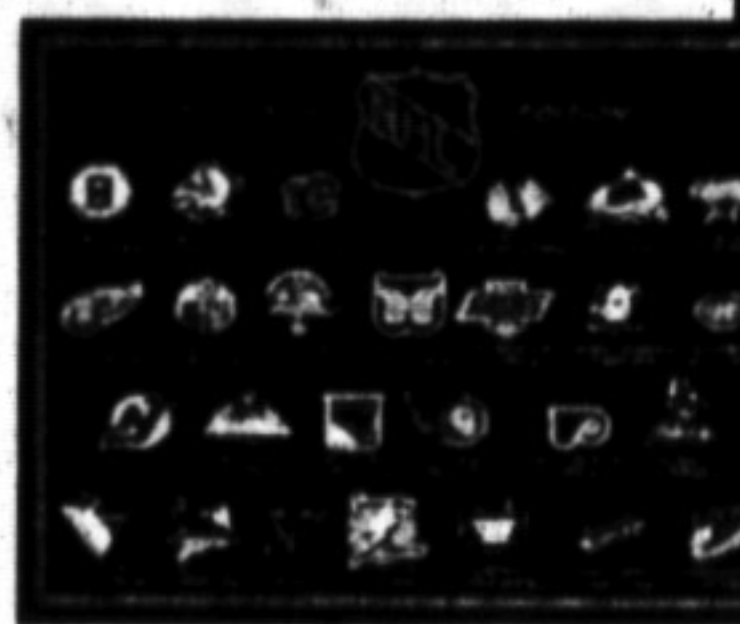
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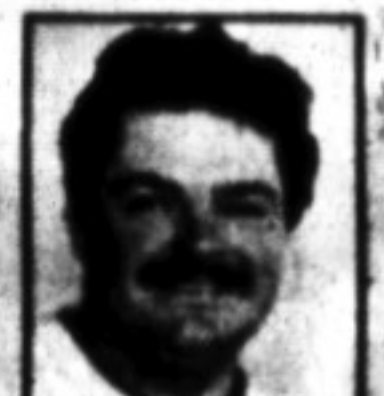
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