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19 Lindsay O'Connor is ready to tackle international rugby match on the radio airwaves.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
EVENT: Inter-church outdoor volleyball league
WHEN: Monday, June 21, register teams, 640-6464
WHERE: Christian Blind Mission, 3844 Stouffville Rd.



14 Tarzan surfs through the jungle in the animated adventure, opening this week.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1999

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POLICE: Animal ordered muzzled after woman attacked in Ballantrae

Dog attacks woman on bike

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

A Rhodesian ridgeback show dog will be wearing a muzzle following an attack on a cyclist in Ballantrae yesterday.

While Helen Hartai of Iroquois Drive recuperates from both a painful and frightening experience, the dog owner has promised to keep the 90-pound dog confined, while he makes arrangements to get a muzzle.

Hartai wants dog owners to be more mindful of the dangers of letting their dogs run loose, especially if children are near.

The incident took place when Hartai and her husband were out for a Sunday afternoon bike ride in the neighbourhood.

He sunk his teeth into my left thigh. I have eight puncture holes and a large bruise.

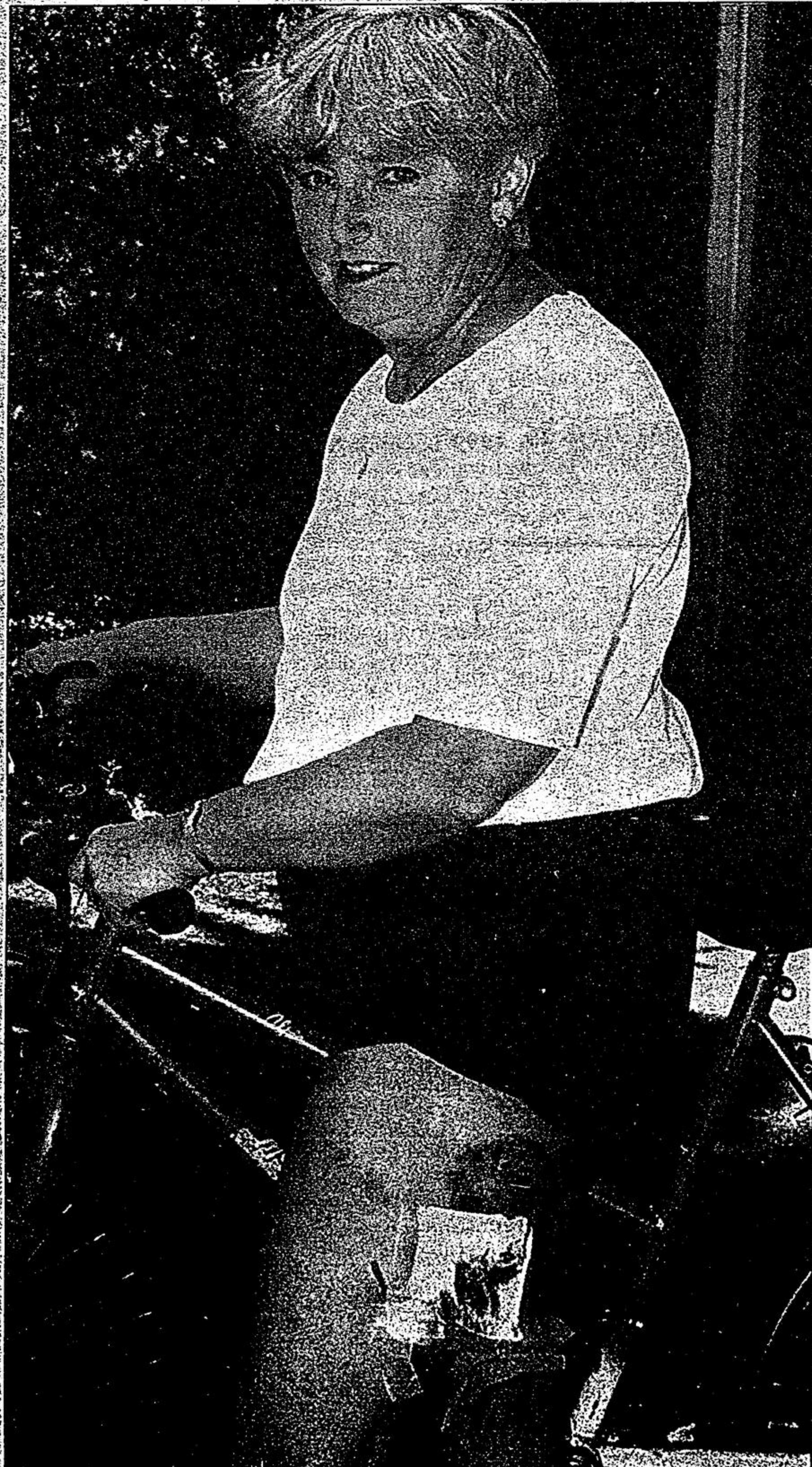
"We were on Aspen Court and out of the clear blue, this huge brown dog came charging. He sunk his teeth into my left thigh. I have eight puncture holes and a large bruise," he said.

Hartai was treated and released from Markham Stouffville Hospital.

The dog bite was reported to the local animal control authorities in Georgina.

Charges against the dog

See SHOW, page 4.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Helen Hartai, of Iroquois Drive in Ballantrae, was bitten by a neighbour's dog while out for a bike ride yesterday. Hartai said the experience was not only painful, but extremely frightening.

Suicide not linked to murder, family says

Finger-pointing friends to blame for suicide, dad says

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
Staff Writer

Pol Claassen's family is convinced there's no way the "fragile" young man's shocking suicide last week is directly linked to Tammy Lamondin-Gagnon's mysterious disappearance.

Claassen's father Willem and his older brother Neal say the suicide was more likely caused by so-called friends pointing at him as a suspect in the two-week-old disappearance.

"There were people he thought were his friends who turned their backs on him," Willem said yesterday morning. "If people said nasty things about him, he just couldn't handle that too well."

Pol Claassen was the last person to be seen with the 20-year-old Newmarket woman, when he gave her a ride just after midnight on May 29.

Neal and two co-workers found the 26-year-old man hanging in the family's Vandorf business June 7.

Shortly before he was

found, Claassen had called York Regional Police homicide detectives to tell them he would be late for what was expected to be a three-hour interview about the missing woman.

Although Claassen was "intimidated" by the request for a second police interview, Neal and Willem don't believe that pushed him into suicide.

"They said they wanted to pick his brain for about three hours, that worried him quite a bit," Willem said. "He couldn't handle any pressure."

Still, Claassen showed no signs of distress at the family home in Uxbridge Township the day before he killed himself.

"He was absolutely normal," Willem said. "He didn't show any signs that this was going to happen the next day."

Claassen didn't leave a note, something family members say wasn't unusual for the "quiet, shy" man of few words.

"I can't be mad at him. I can't understand it — but I can't be mad at him," his father said. "I just think, why didn't I see it? Why couldn't I have helped him?"

Following the suicide,

See NO, page 4.

Ross Dixon
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