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April 30, 2006



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**TOP STORIES**

**Pefferlaw dog attack leaves victim shaken**

Apr 12, 2006  
John Slykhuis, Staff Writer  
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A huge, raging dog "shook me like a rag doll" in a frightening attack last Friday, a Keswick man said this week.

Kevin Sarasin said he's lucky to be alive after a 160-pound Tibetan bull mastiff tore into him while he was visiting his father, Roy, in Pefferlaw.

It was supposed to have been a day to celebrate.

"My fiancée (Stephanie McBride) and I found out we were going to have a baby boy after the ultrasound and we were going to bring my dad the good news," Mr. Sarasin said.

After chatting with his father and his father's friend, they noticed a car driven by Kevin's sister Christine Sarasin pull into the driveway.

"We noticed the dog from next door was outside. I opened the front door and sort of shoed it home and he just lunged at me. I didn't have a chance. He grabbed me by the arm, spun me around and dragged me down. He just shook me like a rag doll."

That's when an outraged Christine took action.

"My sister chased it off with a rake, pretty brave. She saved my life," he said.

Police and paramedics were called and he was taken to the hospital to be treated for a lacerated arm, deep bites in his side, one near his spine and several punctures and torn muscles. One spot was behind my left knee, near the tendon. They said I was pretty lucky."

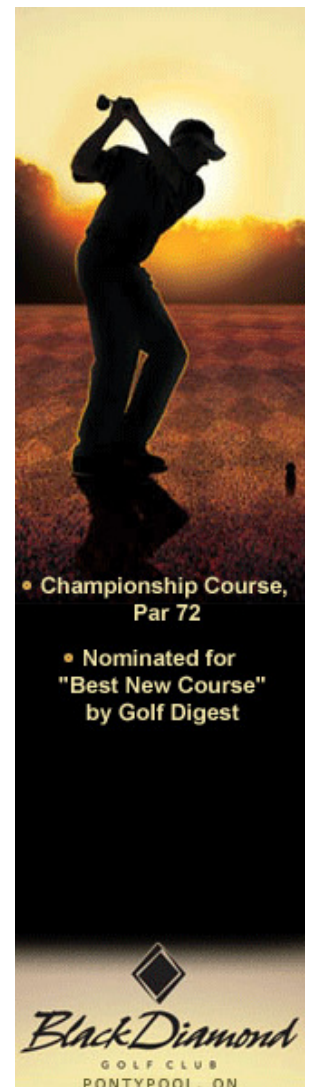
Police did not charge the owner, but Georgina municipal enforcement officials are expected to have the animal declared vicious.

Mr. Sarasin said the Tibetan bull mastiff, named Twilight, dug under the fence to get loose. "And it wasn't the first time," Mr. Sarasin said.

The dog is now in mandatory quarantine at the Georgina animal shelter where staff members said he is very aggressive and

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hostile.

The unidentified owner is being urged to have the dog destroyed. Until then, as an official "vicious" dog, the owner will be required it be securely fenced and muzzled when off the property.

Further legal action my be pending.

Mr. Sarasin, a 30-year-old punch press operator, said he'll be off work for at least a week as he recovers from his injuries.

Tibetan bull mastiffs, which were used to guard monasteries in Tibet, can weigh up to 170 pounds and on their hind legs top six feet in height. They are being used as watchdogs in Canada and are often not friendly to humans.

According to a dog breeders' website they require "consistent and firm training".

It is the second vicious dog attack in a month in Georgina.

Last month, Barbara Cripps and her dog, Rex, were attacked by two dogs that were loose from their property in Keswick, inflicting serious wounds to the Belgian shepherd and bites and bruises to Ms Cripps. These dogs have also been declared vicious.



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