

## **“It’s just shocking”**

### **Three year old dies after garage door falls on him**

By Matthew Van Dongen (St. Catharines Standard)  
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Little Kolton Tkachuk was always on the move.

Living next door, Tim Slade often saw the smiley three-year old tottering around the back yard of his Cherie Road home.

Or the front yard. Anywhere his father, Kyle, went.

“He’d follow his dad around with his own little lawnmower,” Slade said

“He was really a going concern. A cute little ball of fire.”

Slade wasn’t outside when Kolton tried to run into his family’s garage Wednesday morning, seconds before the door plummeted down.

He heard the commotion of police and distraught neighbours and he knew Kolton had been airlifted to hospital.

But he didn’t know, until Wednesday evening, that the sparkly eyed toddler died from his injuries around 2 p.m.

“It’s just shocking. There’s no accounting for something like that,” he said, shaking his head sadly.

“He was a nice kid. They’re a nice family. They just moved in recently and seemed to want to stay put.”

“I don’t know how you deal with that.”

Niagara Regional Police said the boy was killed while work was being done on the garage floor around 11:30 a.m.

The door was held open for workers, but its weight caused it to fall - just as the toddler darted into the garage.

The provincial Ministry of Labour and the regional coroner’s office are investigating the death.

It’s not, at present, a criminal matter, said NRP spokesman Const. Sal Basilone.

On Wednesday, car after car slowly drove by look at the taped-off garage at 82 Cherie Rd.

The two-storey, red-and-brown brick home was empty while provincial investigators examined the scene.

The garage was bare, save for a red toddler-sized toy car and a tiny green tricycle.

Neighbours grouped together in the street to talk, but few wanted to comment on the record.

One man sat on his steps in a nearby home and stared into space. The neighbour, who didn’t want to give his name, said his heart went out to Kolton’s parents, Kyle and Frances.

The couple’s daughter, Felicia Frances, is less than eight months old.

Their neighbour, a young dad, said the “devastating” tragedy gave him plenty to think about.

About the night before, for instance, when he watched his own four-year-old son scoot around a back yard playset with the energetic Kolton.

About how his son likes to play with the pull rope on their own garage door.

“It sure puts things in perspective,” he said simply. “What else can you say? It’s just terrible.”