

# Racer survives crash

BY DAVID KAZLOVSKIS  
Chronicle Editor  
GRAND BEND

Former Dunnville resident Karen Parker is lucky to be alive after falling off her V-Rod Destroyer drag racing motorcycle at more than 130 miles per hour while competing in Grand Bend over the weekend.

Parker was making her third run in practice for the opening event of the Canadian Motorcycle Drag Racing Association (CMDRA) season here last Friday when her limited production Harley-Davidson motorbike began to wobble as it approached the finish line of the quarter-mile strip.

"The bike went into a power wobble as she approached the line," said Parker's team manager Dan Harkin, who was watching from the other end of the racing surface.

"She was doing 138.04 miles per hour and she lost it," he said.

Harkin said he watched in horror as his wife, who is in her second year of drag racing, rolled off the motorcycle and slid along the tarmac. "She rolled on her shoulder and her helmet hit the ground," Harkin recalled.

Miraculously, the 43-year-old who grew up in Dunnville, suffered only minor injuries and was back racing the next day.

"Paramedics rushed out to the track and she was taken to hospital for examination and then released," said Harkin. "She is still feeling sore; but her only other injury was a broken finger nail."

Parker's motorbike, on the other hand, sustained approximately \$2,000 in damage as a result of the crash.

The Team Hawg Wild manager, whose team is based out of Spruce Grove, Alta., said he received help from people he had never met before as he worked through the night to prepare Parker's back-up V-Rod Destroyer for qualifying on Saturday.

"People here in the east are the nicest people in Canada," he said, regarding members of the Davies Harley-Davidson-sponsored team, from Richmond Hill, who helped Harkin get the back-up bike ready to race. The manager of Rocky's Harley-Davidson, of London, then came up with a spare racing helmet for Parker to wear.

"Karen wanted to get right back on the bike, as soon as possible," Harkin outlined.

Parker was off her pace, however, as she qualified and then lost her opening round matchup. Team Hawg Wild's next event takes them to British Columbia this weekend for the second stop of the CMDRA season.