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KINGSTON

## 'He was robbed of a bright future'

### Father to give eulogy today at Brody Albert's funeral

By Jennifer Pritchett  
Whig-Standard Staff Writer

**H**E WAS AN ACTIVE, CURIOUS toddler who carried his teddy bear everywhere he went, a charming little boy everyone loved.

That's how Steven and Julie Albert will forever remember their only son, Brody Mitchell Albert.

To them, he was all any couple could wish for in a baby boy – bright, outgoing and happy.

But a month before their son was to turn two years old, the Alberts are living every parent's worst nightmare.

Brody died in the arms of his parents on Sunday afternoon at the intensive care unit of Kingston General

Hospital after an incident Friday at his babysitter's home.

The babysitter, Cheryl Ann Larsen, 32, has been charged with second-degree murder.

"[He] had an extremely bright future that he was robbed of," Steven Albert told *The Whig-Standard* during an interview by e-mail on the eve of his baby's funeral.

Huddled with family members at a home in Buckingham, Que., Albert was planning what to say during Brody's eulogy.

Brody's funeral is today at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Mulgrave and Derry, Que. Visitation for friends and family will be held from

9 a.m. to noon at Brunet Funeral Home in Buckingham.

"He was voted Kingston's Cutest Boy of 2001 by the *Heritage* Newspaper – just take it from there," Albert told *The Whig*.

"His mother was his favourite person. He adored her and he made her laugh as much as she did him," he said.

The proud father yesterday looked back on his son's short but happy life.

Born Jan. 11, 2001, at Kingston General, Brody was always a joy to be around, Albert said.

His first word was "daddy," which was quickly followed by "mommy," "juice," "dance" and "Barney."

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LOCAL NEWS

# Murder suspect held until Monday

By Jennifer Pritchett  
Whig-Standard Staff Writer

**T**HE 32-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF THREE WHO IS charged with the murder of a toddler she was babysitting will remain in custody until her bail hearing Monday, court heard yesterday.

Cheryl Ann Larsen is charged in the death of Brody Albert, who would have turned two years old next month.

During her brief court appearance yesterday, Larsen was asked if she understood the charge against her.

"Yes, I do," she replied.

She is being held in Quinte Detention Centre.

Police say Brody was in Larsen's care at her two-storey home at 899 Pembridge Cres. when the incident occurred last Friday morning.

He was taken by ambulance to Kingston General Hospital, where he spent two days on life support before he died of massive head injuries.

Sources have told *The Whig-Standard* that the young boy was shaken. Police have released no details about how he died.

After an initial police investigation, Larsen

was charged with aggravated assault, but that was upgraded to second-degree murder after Brody died of his injuries in the intensive care unit at KGH on Sunday afternoon.

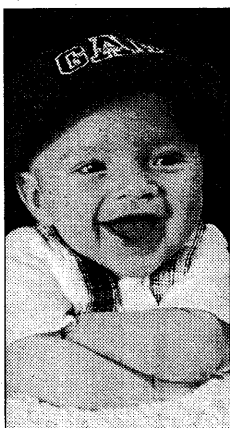
Arrested last weekend, Larsen first appeared in court on Monday. During that ap-

pearance, she looked dishevelled and in obvious distress. Her eyes darted around the courtroom as she sat behind the glass in the prisoner's box.

Larsen has turned to one of Kingston's top defence lawyers, Peter Kemp, to represent her.

## Brody 'was extremely active and curious'

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**Brody Albert as an infant**

His favourite food was spaghetti, but his parents fondly remember him wearing more than he actually ate. His parents say he was just like any other happy, healthy toddler.

He loved the outdoors and especially looked forward to riding the swings in the park. He loved music - his favourite was on the Weather Channel. He also loved toys and was quick to figure out how gadgets worked.

"He was extremely active and curious," Albert said. "He wanted to know what made things tick."

The toddler often spent time with his friends Brandon, Jessie and AJ, his father said.

He will be missed by his grandparents Barry and June Albert and Dale and Grace Sims, as well as countless friends and relatives.

The Alberts have said their son will be laid to rest with some of his favourite things, including his teddy bear, a soother and a Barney book.

In memory of Brody, donations are being accepted at the Children's Aid Society of Kingston.

# Judge sets strict conditions for Cheryl Ann Larsen

By Jennifer Pritchett  
and Arthur Milnes  
Whig-Standard Staff Writers

**A** KINGSTON MOTHER OF THREE accused of murdering a toddler she was babysitting appeared stony-faced as a Superior Court judge set her free on \$60,000 bail yesterday.

Smartly dressed in a dark-coloured suit, Cheryl Ann Larsen had no reaction as her case was discussed during a bail hearing at the Frontenac County Court House.

Her demeanor was a stark contrast to her first court appearance a week ago when she sat dishev-

elled and in obvious distress behind the glass in the prisoner's box at the Wellington Street courthouse.

Yesterday, the Crown opposed her release and the judge, Mr. Justice Kenneth Pedlar, heard evidence during the hour-long hearing.

A publication ban prohibits publication of evidence discussed during the bail hearing.

Pedlar granted Larsen bail but he attached strict conditions to the release. Larsen cannot be alone with children under the age of 16, including her three sons, without the supervision of an adult.

She must reside at her west-end home at 899 Pembroke Cres. She must abstain from any contact with Steven and Julie Albert, the parents of the dead child, and she is not permitted to attend their home in the city's east end. The bail conditions also forbid her from possessing firearms or prohibited weapons.

The accused's husband, Mark Larsen, a high-ranking officer at Canadian Forces Base Kingston, posted her bail - a \$10,000 money order and the rest in the form of a bond.

He was in court yesterday.

Larsen, 32, is charged in the death of 22-month-old Brody Al-

bert, who died Dec. 8 in the intensive care unit at Kingston General Hospital.

Police say Brody was in Larsen's care when he suffered massive head injuries Dec. 6 during an incident at the babysitter's suburban home.

Sources have told *The Whig-Standard* the toddler had been shaken.

Brody was rushed by ambulance from Larsen's home to Kingston General Hospital.

The toddler died two days later after spending the weekend on life support.

**Please see CHILDREN'S, Page 4**

# Thanks from the Albert family

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals and agencies that pulled together in order to aid Julie and me, and the Albert and Sims families, during the untimely passing of our son Brody.

We would especially like to thank Kingston General Hospital's intensive care unit, doctors, nurses, padre and social care workers for their support of the families and care provided to Brody up to and including his passing.

We would also like to thank Maison Funeraire Brunet, especially Lynn Alie, who guided us through this difficult time; Pastor Rev. Jason Kouri of St. Matthews Lutheran Church and Pastor Parker from Canadian Forces Base Kingston, who provided the church service; 1 Wing Headquarters, in particular Master Warrant Officer Ken McMillan, and PCA Adjusters



**Brody Albert**

Pat O'Shaughnessy for their concern and guidance; members of the Hill & Gully Rider Snowmobile club, who generously donated their clubhouse for the luncheon after the service; Anita Berndt and Sonia Charron for their efforts in coordinating the hospitality provided by the numerous families and friends who donated food items for the luncheon; Clayton

Berndt, John Rae and Jim McEachern for preparing the gravesite; and, once again, Clayton Berndt for ensuring that the roads were safe for the funeral procession. Also thanks to our family and friends for their support and genuine concern.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, the Kingston Children's Aid Society and the Kingston Police officers and detectives for their prompt response in dealing with this case.

We have been overwhelmed by all the random acts of kindness, numerous cards, gifts of money, flowers and donations to various charities that have come in and continue to come in. This reassures us that Brody's short time on Earth had meaning and touched many lives.

God bless all of you.

Steven and Julie Albert  
Kingston