

Sun, March 6, 2005

Pit bull came to her aid

By CP

OTTAWA -- It was about -40 C and Noella Mitchell lay helpless on the handicap ramp leading up to her home. She'd soon be staring into the eyes of a pit bull and thinking she was about to die. The 42-year-old woman, who has Graves' disease, which causes muscular weakness, wasn't able to get up.

Her cries for help went unheard, except by Cloe, her son's friend's pit bull, which somehow got out of the house.

"When I saw her I thought I was dead," said Mitchell.

But to Mitchell's surprise, Cloe began licking her face and trying to bring attention to her fall. "She sat there beside me, howling and barking."

At one point the desperate dog tried to pull Mitchell inside. Finally, her son's friend came home.

Ontario has become the first province to ban pit bulls. And Mitchell said she used to lock up the dog, but "I will never lock her up again."

Current pit bull owners will be able to keep their dogs as long as they're neutered, and muzzled and leashed outside.