



Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
620 Colborne St., Suite 301
London, Ontario, Canada N6B 3R9

P: 519-642-7755
F: 519-642-7192
E: mwinkler@braintumour.ca

Media Release

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2011

Daughter Honours Father's Journey with a Brain Tumour with Fundraising Effort

(Brampton, ON, April 6) When Samantha Howes was a teenager, she lost her father to the brain tumour he had battled for many years. Today, she is a Brampton-based graphic designer and is continuing to honour her dad's courage with inspiring and creative efforts. This May, she will take part in the David Bloom Memorial Brampton Spring Sprint.

In June 1985, Samantha was six years old and one day her father experienced a grand mal seizure. This unexpected event was initially blamed on stress. Not long afterwards however, a CT scan was performed which led to surgery on Samantha's July 4th birthday. The operation revealed an Anaplastic Astrocytoma, grade three brain tumour. "I remember having my seventh birthday in that waiting room. It meant a lot to me that my mom made it happen after hearing that my dad had cancer," recalls Samantha. "We had a birthday cake with paper plates and plastic forks at the hospital. We had a happy birthday in an effort to have normalcy in our lives."

Through to her early teen years Samantha remembers spending a lot of time with her extended family as Dad was in and out of treatments – radiation, chemotherapy, blood work and MRIs. Then in the summer of 1995, doctors realized that the tumour was growing faster than the chemotherapy could treat it. They shared with the family that the upcoming Christmas celebrations would likely be their last together.

While the loss of her father at such a young age was tragic, Samantha remembers the 17 years she had him in her life and encourages others to, "Never give up hope. It's the only thing I would tell to someone with a brain tumour or someone who knows someone who is affected," Samantha says, "hope makes a big difference."

She is also grateful for the hope and support offered by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada to her family when they needed it most. "After the first surgery mom and dad went to these support groups called the Brainy Bunch. It was a good place for Dad to ask questions and get answers. It was a good place to meet others in the same situation and get the real human experience from others."

It's because of those good memories that Samantha is supporting the Brampton Spring Sprint. "It was like I was able to re-know my dad. As much as it is still painful, it's nice to have your memories confirmed and have the opportunity to remember my dad while getting to know his story better," Samantha reflects. "Last year when I participated I made a hat and I molded a brain on the cap because I thought it would be eye catching and raise awareness. Sometimes it takes something silly to drive home the point and in turn they'll remember Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and why there are so many people there."

On Sunday, May 1, join Samantha Howes, her family and friends in support of Brampton's David Bloom Memorial Spring Sprint, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's national fundraising walkathon program. The Brampton event features 3km and 10km routes for walkers, joggers and runners at Professor's Lake Recreation Centre. The event is run by a dedicated group of local volunteers who are determined to improve the lives of those affected by a brain tumour.

www.braintumour.ca



Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
620 Colborne St., Suite 301
London, Ontario, Canada N6B 3R9

P: 519-642-7755
F: 519-642-7192
E: mwinkler@braintumour.ca

The national goal this year is to raise \$1.5 million to fund research into the cause and better treatments for brain tumours. This includes research being conducted across Canada including at Sunnybrook Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital and the University of Toronto as well as the University of Western Ontario and London Health Sciences Centre.

“The prospect for all of the research that will be conducted as a result of the funds raised is very exciting,” says Susan Marshall, Executive Director of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. “Our vision is to find a cure for brain tumours and to improve the quality of life for those affected and we all move closer to this reality with the efforts of Spring Sprint.”

Donations also lead to important education, information, and support for the estimated 55,000 Canadians affected by brain tumours such as: the brain tumour support group that meets monthly in Mississauga at Westminster United Church on Tomken Road; the Southern Ontario BrainWAVE Program supporting families with a child with a brain tumour; and the annual London Brain Tumour Information Day Conference for patients and health care professionals. Patient care is also improved with health care professional in-services and workshops at local treatment centres. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada was founded in London, Ontario in 1982.

Event: Spring Sprint for Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

3km & 10km walk and run for walkers, joggers and runners.

Dates: Sunday, May 1, 2011: Check-in: 9:15 a.m. & Start: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Professor’s Lake Recreation Centre, 1660 North Park Dr., Brampton, ON L6S 4B4

Register: www.springsprint.ca or 519-642-7755

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Megan Winkler

Marketing and Communications Specialist

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Website: www.braintumour.ca

P: 519-642-7755 ext. 232

E: mwinkler@braintumour.ca

Event Website: www.springsprint.ca

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

There are an estimated 55,000 people in this country living with a brain tumour and 10,000 new cases are diagnosed each year, many of those are children. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada provides information through a free, comprehensive Patient Resource Handbook, live and web-based annual education events, and support through a Canada-wide, toll-free 1-800 line, website (www.braintumour.ca), and 23 support groups that meet monthly across Canada. Brain tumour research is also supported through an annual grants-in-aid program and to date \$2.75 million has been directed to brain tumour research. Please visit Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s website at www.braintumour.ca.

Mission Statement

To reach every Canadian affected by a brain tumour through support, education, information and research.

Vision

To find the cause of and cure for brain tumours while improving the quality of life for those we serve.