

Newly diagnosed brain tumour survivor laces up for Toronto charity walk

Toronto, Ontario, May 22 2015 – For young married couple Rebecca and Chuck Mott, 2014 was an exciting year. Chuck had recently started a new job, a cottage and puppy helped keep the Motts busy, and a growing family seemed right around the corner. That was until Rebecca heard a loud sound one morning in October.

“I was just about to head out for work when I heard it,” Rebecca recalls. “That’s when I went into our bedroom and saw Chuck on the bed having a seizure.” Going straight to the emergency room via ambulance, it was first thought that Chuck was having a side effect due to medication – however, he wasn’t taking anything at the time, says Rebecca. While he was unconscious, the medical team did a CT scan on Chuck and revealed what they thought was a brain bleed, and then thought could be a calcified mass. With a referral to visit a neurologist at Sunnybrook Hospital, Chuck would spend the next week in medical care to ensure the seizures were under control and there was no more swelling in his brain.

Two weeks passed and this time it was an actual allergic reaction to medication that would bring Chuck back to the hospital. That’s when the couple was told about Chuck’s suspected diagnosis: a Grade II oligodendroglioma brain tumour. “I thought I was going to be a widow, that my husband was going to die. It was devastating for us,” explains Rebecca.

On December 10, 2014, Chuck underwent awake brain surgery, but due to the mass’ location crossing the temporal and left frontal lobes, only 60 per cent of it could be removed. Radiation and chemotherapy for several weeks would follow, in hopes of shrinking the remaining tumour.

Sent home the day after the operation, the Motts started doing online research about brain tumours. That’s when Chuck discovered Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. “We ordered the handbooks right to our house,” adds Rebecca. “And we got the grey bracelets and car magnets for family, too. That’s also when I learned about the Toronto Spring Sprint.”

Joining the 2015 walk and fun-run is a first for the couple. Rebecca says that Chuck was hesitant originally, “but I told him that this [brain tumours] is part of our lives now. It’s just our new normal.” With at least 20 loved ones walking alongside Rebecca and Chuck on Sunday, May 24, it’s sure to be a morning filled with laughter and positivity. And for the Motts, the Spring Sprint is one way they can support others on the brain tumour journey. “We want to do anything we can. We want to be a helpful guide or support system for someone else who might not have had the support we did to get through this.”

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About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada offers hope to those affected through education and a national network of support programs. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada also funds brain tumour research through annual grants, fellowships and research studentships. All activities are supported solely by the dedication and determination of donors - individuals, corporate sponsors and foundations. Since the organization’s founding in 1982, more than \$4 million has been directed to brain tumour research. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

For further information or to schedule an interview with the Mott family, contact:

Katrina Fortner

Marketing and Communications Specialist, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

W: 1-800-265-5106 ext. 230

C: 519-902-8209

kfortner@braintumour.ca