

Media Release

"Brain cancer is so terrible" Vancouver family pays tribute to grandmother 14 years after her death

Vancouver, BC, June 5, 2015 – Grandparents hold a very special place in our hearts. Oftentimes they're the ones who snuck us sweets or told silly jokes. For Vancouver, BC's Darcy Craig, it was important for her young son Mason to know his grandmother, but there was just one thing: Darcy's mom passed away from brain cancer metastases in 2001 – long before little Mason was born.

Darcy's mom, Donna Sauvé-Storey, was first diagnosed with lung cancer in November 2000, after following a hospital visit for pneumonia. She underwent chemotherapy treatment for 6 months which was followed by a brief remission. In the spring of 2001, Donna began feeling tired and weak, napping often and didn't seem her usual self. Doctors would do two CT scans, but the masses on Donna's brain weren't identified until a psychiatry specialist ordered a third scan after some usual behaviour. By the time the cancer's spread to her brain was discovered, Donna lived 21 more days. She passed away in August 2001 at home surrounded by family and friends; Darcy was just 14 years old. "It was hard seeing Mom go through that" she recalls. "Brain cancer is so terrible – the person isn't themselves and can't control their body or mind like they once could."

While it's been more than a decade since Donna's passing, Darcy still makes a point to honor her life and find ways to show her son that his grandmother was a remarkable person that will live on in spirit. Part of this celebration is joining the Vancouver Spring Sprint and fundraising in tribute to Donna and all patients facing the brain cancer journey. "There's not enough awareness about this disease. It seems to affect so many people – even my partner's father died of brain cancer. We want to do what we can to help," Darcy explains. In 2014, Darcy walked in the rain with a stroller, as she pushed Mason all bundled up and through the Spring Sprint's route. This year Mason will walk alongside Darcy and their family and friends in the fundraising walk. Darcy joins the annual event as a way for Mason to remember his grandma and also emphasize how important it is to give back to other families. "We want to do this walk every year. It's so positive for Mason and, truly, our entire family," she adds. "I hope there will continue to be resources for people to talk about their experiences, to get help they need when diagnosed with brain cancer. By raising money for Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, not only are those supports available, but the research to slow down the disease, or ultimately find a cure, is possible."

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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.

About the Spring Sprint – Why do we walk?

Every day, 27 Canadians learn they have a brain tumour. Right now, an estimated 55,000 Canadians live with this disease that can impair physical and mental ability and change personality or behaviour. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada brings hope, education and support to everyone affected. By signing up and fundraising as part of a brain tumour walk, patients, survivors, family and friends join the nationwide movement to end brain tumours. Their efforts support the specialized programs and resources that empower patients to be their own best health care advocates and fund the ground-breaking research that will find a cure for the disease. Dates and details for events across Canada are available at www.SpringSprint.ca.

For further information about Spring Sprint and Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, please contact:

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