

13th Annual Hamilton-Niagara Brain Tumour Walk

Young woman with life-changing brain tumour finds hope in Walk

HAMILTON-NIAGARA, ON, May 17, 2018 – Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is excited to host a Brain Tumour Walk in Hamilton on Sunday, May 27, 2018 in support of anyone affected by a brain tumour. This annual fundraiser brings hope to the estimated 55,000 Canadians living with a brain tumour and the dozens more who are diagnosed each day.

"Patients and families are the heart of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and we want them to know they are not alone. Together we walk to raise awareness about this often devastating disease and to let our community know we are to help," says Susan Marshall, CEO.

With more than 120 types of tumours, they are complex and can be difficult to treat. Symptoms can range from hearing loss to hormonal problems. Brain tumours can also affect vision, memory, balance and mobility.

Catarina Matos knows this all too well. Soon after graduating college, the 25-year-old Hamilton woman was diagnosed with a pituitary brain tumour and Cushing's disease. Catarina had thought brain tumours were rare, until she became a part of the brain tumour community.

"Each battle, cancerous or not, is so intense. It changes you as a person. It changes your personality, your mental health – everything. It takes so many people's lives," says Matos. "The walk to me, means hope. A sense of community and a sense of togetherness. A place where you don't have to feel alone, whether you're a patient or a caregiver."

Matos participated in her first walk last spring, just months after her brain surgery. She continues to walk, raising funds to support more research, medicine, advocacy and ultimately a cure for brain tumours.

Her efforts and those of thousands of other participants support Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's specialized resources, support programs and research grants, including a recent project by McMaster University student Salim Sabra.

What: Hamilton Brain Tumour Walk

When: Sunday, May 27, 2018 (10:45 am Survivor Photo, 10:50 am Ceremony, 11 am Walk)

Where: Dofasco Park – FH Sherman Rec Centre, 388 First Rd. E, Stoney Creek

About the Brain Tumour Walks

By fundraising as part of a Brain Tumour Walk, patients, survivors, family and friends join the nationwide movement to end brain tumours. For more than two decades, Brain Tumour Walks have been the community event to bring together thousands of Canadians in tribute to and in memory of people affected by a brain tumour. **For more information about the 20+ Brain Tumour Walks taking place across Canada in 2018, visit www.BrainTumourWalk.ca.**

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada: Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity offering information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it



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cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization funds ground-breaking research across North America and, since 1982, has dedicated over \$6.2 million to finding a cure and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is funded solely through generous contributions from individuals, corporations, organizations, employee groups and special events. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

To schedule an interview or for further information, please contact:

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