

“There’s no tempting Lucky Number 7!”

Ben Poudrier faces each day as a brain tumour survivor – a new perspective on life, he says

Fredericton, NB, May 25, 2016 – For 30-year-old Benoit Poudrier, the past three years have been a journey to say the least. But despite six brain surgeries, meningitis, and blood clots in his legs due to hospital stays, this brain tumour survivor has kept his sense of humour. “I had six brain surgeries total by April 2015, and I certainly don’t want anymore. For me, there’s no tempting Lucky Number 7!”

Ben says that he sometimes grapples with having people understand the changes he’s needed to make to work and live post-brain tumour. “People look at me and don’t see anything wrong. But I struggle sometimes and people get frustrated with me because it’s not obvious that I had a brain tumour.” That’s why he’s decided to fundraise for Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada as part of the 13th annual Fredericton Brain Tumour Walk, so that more awareness and education is available, and so people are more tolerant and thoughtful. For this survivor, it’s also a chance to share his story in hopes that other brain tumour patients can find comfort in not feeling alone on their journey. For Ben, “There was always an upside through all this – no matter how bad things got, I could find something positive to think about. That’s what I hope others can find too, that optimism.”

Ben experienced symptoms for quite some time before the reason for his mobility and vertigo troubles was discovered. It was a trip to an ear, nose and throat specialist that also revealed Ben wasn’t having hearing loss as he’d thought: “I actually couldn’t understand the words that were coming out of the doctor’s mouth – it wasn’t that I was losing my hearing at all.” In a short time, Ben went from a thriving young man to requiring a cane for balance and constant slurred speech. Thankfully, in three years and over several treatments and brain surgeries, Ben is adjusting to his new normal.

This weekend, Ben plans to take part in the 2016 Fredericton Brain Tumour Walk scheduled for Saturday, May 28th at Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre. Opening Ceremonies and Brain Tumour Survivor Recognition begin at 10:45am. Online registration is encouraged; there is no entry fee to participate. The Brain Tumour Walk is family-friendly and non-competitive, and features 2.5km and 5km routes.

- 30 -

About the Brain Tumour Walks

Every day in Canada, 27 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour. That’s 10,000 new diagnoses each year. 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 Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s specialized 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. For more than two decades, Brain Tumour Walks (formerly Spring Sprints) 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 2016, visit www.BrainTumourWalk.ca.**



Media Release, cont'd

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity that offers information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization also funds research across North America and, since 1982, has dedicated more than \$4 million to finding a cure for the disease and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. **Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: www.BrainTumour.ca.**

To interview Ben or for further information about the Fredericton Brain Tumour Walk, please contact:

Katrina Fortner, Alphabet Soup Communications

519.902.8209 | katrina@alphabetsoupcommunications.com

