

“If it’s two, five or 20 years, I feel lucky for the time we have”

Brain cancer survivor and caregiver share their new perspective on life after a diagnosis

London, Ontario, June 6, 2016 – For Dave and Seng Robertson, to say their family has had to adjust to a new normal is an understatement. Over the past year, the London couple has faced a life-threatening brain cancer diagnosis, invasive surgery and radiation, and now, they lead Team Dave’s Brainiacs as part of the June 12th London Brain Tumour Walk. “As we navigate the uncertainty of cancer, it’s brought many moments of not knowing how to react,” explains Seng. “But at this moment, I have Dave – and if it’s two, five or 20 years, I feel lucky for the time we have.”

It was last May when Dave went into a local emergency room, with Seng needing to leave to pick up their two daughters. Later that evening, Seng got a call from Dave. That’s when he told Seng the news about his worsening health. Doctors found Dave had a rare form of brain cancer, a hemangiopericytoma tumour. Seng remembers that night vividly: “As I drove to the hospital sobbing uncontrollably, I knew this was a going to be a major event in our lives. I was not ok with this.”

Thankfully, following a 10-hour operation to remove the mass and 6.5 weeks of radiation, Dave is in remission; but the Robertsons have learned that successful treatment isn’t the end of their fight against brain cancer.

It’s been an eye-opening experience and Seng says there are so many things she’s had to share and absorb since Dave’s diagnosis. From overhearing someone casually mention that brain cancer is the worst diagnosis possible, to reassuring their youngest daughter that Daddy’s tumour isn’t contagious, it’s been a rollercoaster for the Robertsons. Once, while cooking dinner after work, Seng had to answer a heartbreaking question from their oldest daughter. “She asked me, ‘You know on your wedding day when you walk down between the chairs? What happens if you don’t have a daddy?’ When I think of that conversation, it makes me ache.”

This weekend, the Robertsons will lace up their sneakers and take part in their first London Brain Tumour Walk to benefit brain tumour research and specialized resources for patients and caregivers. After living through a year of ups and downs, and now facing the unknown future post-brain cancer, it’s a cause near and dear to the family’s hearts. For Dave, joining the Walk is a chance to do more – to do something positive and hopeful for what’s next. “I’m now living a healthy life and hopeful for the future,” he adds. “But there’s so much more to do still. If we can help raise awareness and help fund more research for a cure, we want to!”

The 2016 London Brain Tumour Walk will take place Sunday, June 12th at Victoria Park. Opening Ceremonies and Brain Tumour Survivor Recognition begin at 9:45am. Mayor Matt Brown and MP Peter Fragiskatos will attend and share welcoming remarks. Online registration is encouraged; no entry fee to participate. The London Brain Tumour Walk is family-friendly and non-competitive.



Media Release, cont'd

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.**

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 schedule an interview with Dave and Seng, or for further information about the London Brain Tumour Walk, please contact:

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