

## **"I'm going to do as much as I can with each day"**

*St. John's brain cancer survivor laces up for October fundraising walk*

**St. John's, Newfoundland, September 20 2016** – When John Hatcher laces up his running shoes on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, he joins over a dozen of his family members and friends for the Newfoundland & Labrador Brain Tumour Walk as team Astro-Blasters. "It's our first year," he explains, "and knowing first-hand how little is said or recognized about brain tumours, we want to help any way we can."

Over the past eight years, John has undergone radiation, multiple brain surgeries and, now, chemotherapy for the cancerous tumour once located on the right side of his brain. Laughing, he looks back on his journey and jokingly says he can't believe that losing his hearing was one of the best things to ever happen to him. "Discovering the tumour was a total fluke," he adds, "but without going in to find out why I had sudden hearing loss on my left side, it might never have been found!"

Now battling a recurrence of the mass originally removed in 2011, John deals with the complex emotions that come with the brain tumour journey. "After you get through that first shock of being diagnosed, especially since I had no symptoms of the tumour, things felt very hopeful. Even with my first operation, the surgeon got everything so I still felt ok. Now it's more real though, and things seem to change each time we visit the doctor. We've tried pretty much every treatment, so I admit it's worrying, but we keep our fingers crossed for the future."

Today, John, his wife Gail, and their daughters Julie and Jenna, are preparing for the annual fundraising walk hosted by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. Julie, who'd previously taken part in a different charity walk, figured there had to be something local that was more directly connected to her dad. "A Google search brought me to Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website and I quickly signed us up in the spring to join the October walk!" she explains. For John, the weekend – which comes just after his September 30<sup>th</sup> MRI to check for new cancer growth – is another step forward in the face of uncertainty. And while he can't predict what's to come for the future, John insists on staying positive. "I say, 'Take every day as it comes.' As long as I can get out of bed, I'm going to do as much as I can with each day."

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# Media Release, cont'd

## **About the Newfoundland & Labrador Brain Tumour Walk**

The 2016 Newfoundland & Labrador Brain Tumour Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 2 at Rotary Paradise Youth Centre. Opening Ceremonies and Brain Tumour Survivor Recognition begin at 9:45am. 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 for all abilities. By 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 to 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 Brain Tumour Walks taking place in Canada in 2016, visit [www.BrainTumourWalk.ca](http://www.BrainTumourWalk.ca).**

## **About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada**

Every day in Canada, 27 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour. That's 10,000 new diagnoses each year. 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](http://www.BrainTumour.ca).**

**To schedule an interview with John Hatcher or for further information about the Brain Tumour Walk, please contact:**

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