

## Media Release

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For Immediate Release

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

### Every Day is a Blessing for Brain Tumour Patient and His Family

What may be perceived as a tragedy can sometimes be viewed as a blessing; or at the least, a miracle. That's how Kim Allen Sorbotten chooses to see her family's journey with a brain tumour diagnosis.

In February 1996, Allen Sorbotten's husband, Gunvald Sorbotten, was diagnosed with a grade 2 astrocytoma. The diagnosis was quick, something Allen Sorbotten attributes to the keen perception of a doctor at Alliston Hospital, near Angus, Ontario, where the couple resides.

Surgery removed 80% of the tumour. On June 2, 2000 a routine MRI revealed that the tumour had grown to the size of a softball and was now a grade 4 glioblastoma multiforme. Again surgery removed 80% of the tumour, followed by radiation and chemotherapy treatments. Allen Sorbotten asked the doctor about her husband's prognosis and, "He said that the average life expectancy would be 18 months."

Today, she refers to her husband as "my miracle man." After almost seven years, he's definitely overcome the odds.

Another miracle, the birth of their son, Nikolai, now 10. "He was a big surprise and it's pretty remarkable his dad is still around to see him grow. I think it's really motivated Gunvald to fight this."

Allen Sorbotten began volunteering with Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, at first to receive support through the organization's on-line chats and message boards and to gain information about brain tumours. Last year she assisted with the Barrie Spring Sprint. Her husband and son took part in the event, walking together to raise money for the Foundation and help find a cure for brain tumours. Allen Sorbotten is helping to organize this year's event, and father and son will walk side-by-side again.

On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, hundreds of people in Barrie and Georgian Bay will join the thousands across Canada who will don their sneakers to participate in Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's annual Spring Sprint. Last year, in 18 cities, Spring Sprints raised over \$750,000 for brain tumour research and to support the estimated 55,000 Canadians currently living with a brain tumour. Each year, an additional 10,000 are newly diagnosed.

The Barrie Spring Sprint features 2.5 km or 5 km route along the beautiful Lake Simcoe Trails. Participants raise pledges that are used to bring hope to people affected by brain tumours and to fund research. Each step is one step closer to imagining a cure.

"I'm so lucky to have my husband around, " says Allen Sorbotten. "We've always been close but this brain tumour has brought us even closer. We appreciate everything we get every day. My goal is to find a cure for this."

**Event:** Barrie Spring Sprint  
**Date:** Saturday, May 5, 2007  
**Location:** Barrie Rowing Club  
**Time:** Check-In: 10:00 a.m. Start Time: 11:00 a.m.

**About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada**

Bringing hope for over 25 years, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is celebrating its ability to positively impact the lives of people affected by brain tumours across Canada. The Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada provides information through a free, comprehensive Patient Resource Handbook, live and web-based annual education events, and support through a Canada-wide, toll-free 1-800 line, website ([www.braintumour.ca](http://www.braintumour.ca)), and national support groups that meet monthly in many communities. The Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada also supports brain tumour research through annual grants-in-aid program. Please visit Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website at [www.braintumour.ca](http://www.braintumour.ca).

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