

Media Release

For Immediate Release

May 22nd, 2007

Hope for Brain Tumour Survivor Comes from Family Unity

Most people affected by brain tumours consider every day a blessing. Cheryl Clarke is one of those people.

Cheryl, 44, is coordinator for the Foundation's Spring Sprint in her hometown of Belleville, Ontario, and also co-facilitates the monthly support group. Her husband, John, was diagnosed with an oligodendroglioma in 1995. He underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. Last September, the family's friends had a benefit dance, raising money to support in-home care for John so Cheryl could continue her full-time job as a social worker.

"We're lucky to have supportive friends and family, so I guess that's why I support Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. So anytime we have an anniversary or birthday I ask for donations for the Foundation instead of gifts. We try to support them as much as we can."

The couple has two daughters. Cheryl says that the girls surprised them when they both went out and got tattoos on the top of their foot saying, *"Imagine a cure"*.

Amber, 21, did it first. Melanie, 17, needed parental consent. She negotiated with her mom. In return for getting the tattoo, Melanie would take care of her dad for three nights to give Cheryl some free time.

"I was pretty tired at the time so I gave in," Cheryl laughs, adding that the tattoos do look good "and a lot of their friends ask what it's for so it's spreading the word. It's their way of supporting their dad."

On Saturday, May 26th, 2007, the Clarke family, along with hundreds of other people in the Belleville area 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 to the estimated 55,000 Canadians currently living with a brain tumour. Each year, an additional 10,000 are newly diagnosed.

The Belleville Spring Sprint features 2.5km, or 5km routes along the beautiful waterfront paths of Bayshore Trail. Participants raise pledges that are used to bring hope to people affected by brain tumours and to fund research. Each step is one closer to imagining a cure.

For Cheryl and her family, being together every day is a blessing.

"Lots of people who are diagnosed with brain tumours think they're not going to survive. John is still with us after 12 years. There have been obstacles but being diagnosed with a brain tumour doesn't mean you won't be here with your family. John is with us. He still has his sense of humour, and we will just find new ways to manage this next part of our journey."

Event: Belleville Spring Sprint
Date: Saturday, May 26th, 2007
Location: Bayshore Trail, Belleville
Time: 9:30 am Check-In

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 on-line events, and support through a Canada-wide, toll-free 1-800 line, website (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.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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