

## Media Release

---

For Immediate Release

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

### Brain Tumour Survivor Lives Life to its Fullest

Mary Palmaro doesn't feel comfortable in the spotlight. She concedes, "There are more people out there who are more ill than me." But her story is important. It's about two sisters who were both diagnosed with brain tumours. One survived to tell the story. The other didn't.

"I knew I had this brain tumour for four years prior to my surgery," says Palmaro, 76, who received her diagnosis in 1998 when a CT Scan revealed a benign brain tumour. She was kept under observation. Her neurosurgeon didn't feel it needed to be removed, but monitored Palmaro, who went for regular MRI's every six months.

In early 2001 Palmaro's sister, Rita Rumball, was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Her journey was more difficult. Following surgery in February 2001, doctors said she only had a few months to live. She exceeded those expectations, but passed away in April 2002 at the age of 66.

In 2002, Palmaro had a seizure. She had surgery to remove a second tumour which had grown, but they left the initial tumour intact since it remained dormant.

"I've developed coping mechanisms," she mentions of her frustration when it comes to memory lapses, a side effect of her surgery. But she is committed to living life to its fullest, enjoying her children and grandchildren, continuing to help out with the family electrical business – doing "the books by hand." And has the support of friends and family, and especially her husband, Dino.

She volunteers at the Sudbury Regional Cancer Program and says that witnessing what many of the patients she works with go through, she feels lucky. She also attends tai chi classes and loves to bake and cook.

"I'm a very determined, independent person," she says. "I've decided I've got too much to do yet."

On Sunday, June 3, 2007, hundreds of other people in the Greater Sudbury 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 Greater Sudbury Spring Sprint features a 5 km walk or run, or 10 km run, starting and finishing at Collège Boréal. 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. Last year's Great Sudbury Spring Sprint raised \$23,000 to support those affected by brain tumours.

**Event:** Greater Sudbury Spring Sprint  
**Date:** Sunday, June 3, 2007  
**Location:** Collège Boréal  
**Time:** Check-In at 11:00 a.m., Start Time at 12:00 noon

**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).

**-30-**

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

**Wendi Belanger**  
**Sudbury Spring Sprint Media Coordinator**  
705-522-9970  
E-mail: [wendibelanger@hotmail.com](mailto:wendibelanger@hotmail.com)

or

**A. Paul Mitchell**  
Community Relations Officer  
Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada  
519-642-7755 x 32  
1-800-265-5106 x32  
E-mail: [pmitchell@braintumour.ca](mailto:pmitchell@braintumour.ca)  
Website: [www.braintumour.ca](http://www.braintumour.ca)