

Honouree Biography - Dave



Birthday: March 24, 1960

Family: Wife - Emmy and son, Dave Jr. (age 10)

Favourite type of music: Rock

Favourite music group: Rolling Stones

Favourite actor: Peter Falk

Favourite film: The Wrath of Khan

Favourite T.V. show: Columbo & Original Star Trek

Favourite author: Robert Ludlum

Favourite food: Dante's Pizza in Thornhill

Occupation: "Retired" Certified Financial Planner

"I'm Running for...Mr. Inspiration - Dave Ellis" - That was the message sent by Dave's friends at a TNT event this year as they took to the streets.

On October 2, 2000 Dave underwent his first Bone Marrow biopsy at Markham Stouffville Hospital - but even before the results came back, the doctor was 99% certain that it was Myelofibrosis. On November 1st, a second Bone Marrow biopsy at Princess Margaret Hospital confirmed the diagnosis.

Often when we think of the blood cancers we think of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma, but Leukemia Research Fund of Canada also funds research into many other blood cancers, amongst these is myelofibrosis. Myelofibrosis, is a rare bone marrow disorder in which blood, (myelo), becomes long and stringy (fibrosis). Because of its shape, these blood cells are of no use to the body. To compensate for the bone marrow not being able to produce blood properly, the spleen and liver try to compensate and as a result become enlarged. From that point on the disease varies from individual to individual - no two illnesses alike, and no two treatments are alike.

Dave's care has involved blood transfusions at Markham Stouffville Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital and Southlake Regional Health Centre. And on Oct. 03, 2002, Dave received a Stem Cell Transplant as part of his course of treatment. Since then Dave must now also receive treatment for Graft Versus Host Disease as a result of the transplant.

Since the summer of 2000 Dave and his family have undergone a complete lifestyle change - they have rediscovered themselves and their lives'. At the age of 40 Dave went into early retirement and now spends his time living each day for ALL that it is worth.

Dave might not be out running marathons, but he is out actively supporting Team in Training members in more ways than one. You may see Dave, Emmy and Dave Jr. cheering along the race route or challenging their friends to raise funds for Leukemia Research Fund of Canada.