



Don Bobier

A Survivor's Story

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Did you know that June is #BrainInjuryAwarenessMonth in Canada? This month, we're shining a #SpotlightOnBrainInjury.

Help us raise awareness about #BrainInjury in Canada by following along with our posts & sharing to your stories!

#SPOTLIGHTONBRAININJURY

My first probable concussion was in 1964. A car accident in which I hit the windshield hard enough to break the glass. The result for me was severe cuts to the right side of my neck and a mutilated right ear. A total of about 50 stitches on my neck, and ear at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital. I was discharged the next day with the right side of my head shaved but to my knowledge and memory no mention of a concussion.

My second and much more serious accident took place on May 24th, 2011. I was in Milton unloading my tractor trailer of plastic pipe, 50ft lengths, 1500lbs each. A pipe rolled off the load from about 12 feet up and hit me on the top of my head. That impact and weight resulted in a broken right leg, sprained left ankle, 3 compressed discs in my lower back, a large skin shear on the back of my hand. Several stitches on my right hand and my pen which was in my shirt pocket punctured my lip. When the paramedics arrived, the one introduced herself as Grace, I remember saying Amazing Grace as they cut my clothes off where I laid to inspect for all injuries. My vitals went wonky a couple of times in the ambulance on the way to the Milton Hospital. I don't remember much after that until family visited that night. The accident had happened at noon.

I was in the hospital for a couple of days after numerous X rays and 2 CT scans. My wife and I decided because of the distance I would come home on the third day. Helluva painful ride home!

When I was able, I started rehab at Parkwood Hospital as an outpatient. We travelled over approximately the next 3 years 160 times to and from London to visit O.T's, Audiologists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Physiotherapists, and an Optometrist in Brampton.

After that time of rehab, I still felt I wanted / needed some type of further support. In talking to members of my local Health Centre I found another survivor and within a short time a West Elgin Community Health Care Centre Leader/Facilitator we formed a Brain Injury Support Group in West Lorne in 2016. We are all amazed yet at the number of local individuals and families in our area who are in need of support.

THANKS to my wife, family, friends, friends I am still making, friends I made at Parkwood Hospital, West Elgin Community Health Centre, and the ongoing support of Doug Walker and Shelly Vergeer.