



Larry Schneider

A Survivor's Story
Click the link to read all of te stories

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 and
sharing to your stories!

#SPOTLIGHTONBRAININJURY

A Scribe's Journey Through the Mirror and Back

Venturing freely along a pathway, winding gently through the trees,

This traveller was overwhelmed by colliding with elements that drove him to his knees.

Years of educating, relocating, learning, and joyful parenting,

Suspended, dislodged, and jarred

By crashing into a huge pine tree.

An icy road, no heavy load, the face, ribs, and foot were crushed,

The world, til then a burbling brook racing along, suddenly grew hushed.

Memories erased, my face defaced, but yet they saved my eye, my foot was reconstructed,

So, sentenced to a bed and a year's recovery

'Permanently partially disabled' is what they labeled me.

Returned to work within a year, many abilities now lost,

Who knew that simple 'black ice' could exact such a huge cost?!

Daily pain and more surgery seemed but bumps along the way, as this sojourner continued

Along his 'merry' way.

A quarter century passed, with joy, work, and pain,

Lulling this determined principal into believing that this was indeed the ongoing game.

But five years ago, a growth in brain, and a dying liver struck,

Convincing our journeying now minister that he was out of luck!

Vertigo, encephalopathy, and a liver transplant too,

This fellow lived in an alternate cocoon of reality,

surrounded by love, prayer, and fugue.

All functions lost, hallucinations seemed the norm,

As this disabled man rode this leaky boat through this storm.

Assailed, bereft, torn asunder from all norms.

Thrown stranded on the beach: immobile, no words, no clear thoughts, no memory,..

His state was extremely bleak.

Yet bent, bowed, but unbroken,

Determined to be the protagonist in his own tale,

Depressed suppressed, suicidal for a while...

A natural optimism, faith, and a desire for newfound relevance

Propel this journeyer forward still,

Forward momentum now regained, unstoppable, and kind.

He ventures now outside the door, moving forward with a smile.

Challenging each day this repressive reality,

Strides forward are made, dietary rules obeyed, a new reality constructed,

In spite of what's been deducted,

Engaging each new day.

- Larry Schneider

Survivor, teacher, minister, writer, in spite of the losses and alienation from his previous reality.