

Robert Cundill

This January will mark two years since Robert passed away. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the fall of 2007 and after a very short, but brave battle he passed away on January 30th. He faced the disease head on and with great dignity, providing support to those around him who were trying to get their heads around the disease & its poor prognosis. It was during this time that I learned how deadly pancreatic cancer is and how heart breaking it is to watch someone you love have to endure what limited treatment is available, all with the knowledge that there is very little chance of survival.

The way Robert dealt with his illness and ultimate passing continues to inspire me. After 5 years together, I was very grateful to have had those last 5 months to be with him, grow with him and to say good-bye. Through conversations and care, he taught me a lot about relationships, love and how I want to live life. I continue to miss his charm and sense of humor and most certainly his incredible insight and guidance.

To celebrate Robert's life and honour his memory, I will be running a half marathon at the end of January 2010 and raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer Canada in the hopes that one day we will be able to detect pancreatic cancer earlier and provide people with better treatment options & a greater chance of survival. Robert was a competitive individual himself and always supportive of my passion for running – he was there at all of my races, cheering me on and greeting me with a huge smile at the finish line. Please help me to honour Robert and give voice to this low profile, but deadly cancer.

Johanna O'Reilly