

# Abuse victim organizes local Victor Walk for May 23

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

The sexual abuse Chris Kirby suffered as a child has had a profound impact on his life.

The 40-year-old Georgetown man, who was abused by the teenage son of a family friend when he was nine years old, said the fallout he's experienced has been far-reaching.

In an effort to help others who have been abused, raise awareness and funds and stop sexual abuse from happening to other children, Kirby has taken on the role of local co-ordinator for the Victor Walk taking place in Georgetown Thursday, May 23 from 11 a.m. to noon at Dominion Gardens Park.

The local walk is part of the National Victor Walk Movement powered by Orange Wave of Courage that will see NHL superstar and sex abuse victim Theo Fleury walk from Toronto to Ottawa to raise awareness and change the way Canadians understand the effects of child sexual abuse. Fleury, who began his walk this week, will be arriving in Ottawa May 23—the same day local walks are planned across the country.

Everyone—survivors, supporters of survivors and child advocates—is encouraged to come out to the Georgetown event

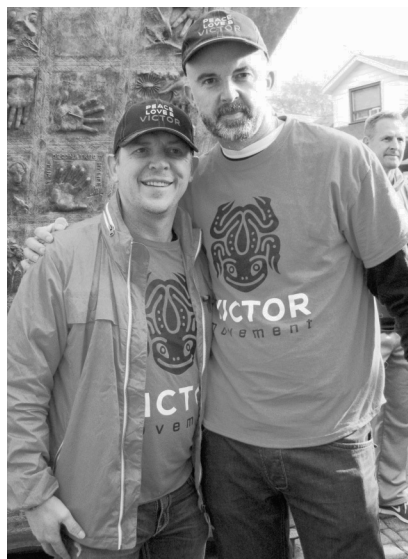
to support and create awareness about how child sexual abuse has affected and impacted their lives.

Members of the community will walk the path around the gardens in hopes of raising awareness and funds for the planned Little Warriors Be Brave Ranch—a long-term treatment centre for children, the first of its kind. Those who come out can choose to collect pledges for their walk or just show their support

Child sexual abuse statistics are alarming.

They show that one in three girls and one in six boys will experience an unwanted sexual act and 95 per cent of victims know their perpetrator.

Seventy per cent of sexual abuse survivors report excessive use of drugs and alcohol, 60 per cent of women with panic disorder are victims of child sexual abuse and 76 per cent of prostitutes have a history of child sexual abuse.



**THEO FLEURY (LEFT)  
AND CHRIS KIRBY**

Kirby said sexual abuse is happening everywhere.

"It's happening in nice, quiet, little Georgetown. People need to talk about it, take it out of the darkness and shine a light on it," he said.

Kirby said the main reason he wanted to get involved with the Victor Walk is that "the big push is for awareness, advocacy, and healing for the people it's happened to and changing the laws to make sure it doesn't happen to other people."

The abuse Kirby suffered as a child has had far-reaching consequences in his life.

It has impacted his relationships—he's had two failed marriages.

"I flirted with alcohol abuse and had a fairly disastrous 20s," said Kirby. "Nobody gets in, nobody gets to see what I really think or feel. You shut everything down, you don't trust anyone, you don't feel you're worthy of anything," said Kirby.

He blames himself for the abuse.

"It's funny because I know logically, and I know from what I've read, and because I'm a parent that it's not my fault, but the gut feeling is guilt," Kirby said.

He said it's been a "bloody hard road," but he's coping better now after undergoing therapy, which he described as a "long slow process."

He has a daughter and is happily married to Jodi Stansfield—whom he used to date in high school.

He wants to send a message to others who have been sexually abused so they can survive as he has.

"I survived. I made it through," he said. He added it's important for him to "just to be able to show people you can get better, you can have a happy life and be worth while, you can shake off all the things that does to you."

The Victor Movement highlights the work of and supports Little Warriors, Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte & district and the Siksika Nation.

For more information on the Victor Walk and the 2013 Victor Movement or to obtain a pledge form visit [www.victorwalk.com](http://www.victorwalk.com)

For information on the local event contact Kirby at 416-788-0009 or email him at [victorwalkgeorgetown@bell.net](mailto:victorwalkgeorgetown@bell.net).

## CHURCHES & TEMPLES

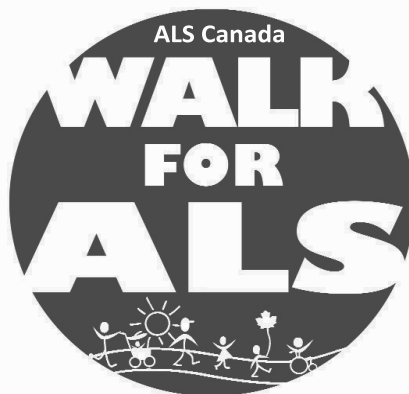
**GEORGETOWN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
welcomes you!  
Lead Pastor: Rev. Gary vanLeeuwen Youth Pastor: Brian DeBoer  
Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am & 6:00 pm  
11611 Trafalgar Road (north of Maple Avenue) 905-877-4322  
[www.gcrc.on.ca](http://www.gcrc.on.ca)

**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Interim-Moderator - Rev. Wendy Lampman  
116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 905-877-7585  
Chair-lift access available.  
'Sunday's Cool' youth ministry program for ages 4 & up.  
Service Dial-in: 905-702-1629  
www.knoxgeorgetown.ca  
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 11:00 A.M.

**HALTON HILLS BIBLE CHAPEL**  
SUNDAY SERVICES  
• Lord's Supper 10 A.M. • Ministry Meeting 11:00 A.M.  
• Fellowship Lunch 12:00 P.M. • Ministry Meeting 1:00 P.M.  
Meeting In: Georgetown Seniors Centre  
Address: 318 Guelph Street  
Phone: 905-873-1005 Website: [www.haltonhillsbiblechapel.com](http://www.haltonhillsbiblechapel.com)

**HALTON HILLS Family House of WORSHIP**  
Services EVERY Sunday  
New Location:  
16 Adamson Street, South Norval, Halton Hills  
familyhouseofworship@start.ca Services starting at 10 am

**SPRIT WAVE MINISTRIES**  
A Word and Spirit Faith Church  
Starting April 21, 2013 at 9 am  
WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT YOU?  
Meeting Location:  
Mold-Masters SportsPlex - Gordon Alcott Heritage Hall  
221 Guelph St., Georgetown  
Pastor Sandra & Blair Dalziel 647-786-8594  
info@spiritwaveministries.ca www.spiritwaveministries.ca  
Child care for infants to 5 years



Join us for the 2013  
Georgetown  
WALK for ALS

1 June, 2013  
Dominion Gardens Park  
(Registration at Christ the King High School)  
161 Guelph St.  
Check-In/Registration: 9:00 am  
Walk Begins: 10:45 am

ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal and rapidly progressive neuromuscular disease affecting more than 1,000 individuals and families living in Ontario. There is no cure or effective treatment and 80% of those affected die within 2 to 5 years of diagnosis.

The WALK for ALS increases awareness of the disease, raises money for equipment and support services for those living with ALS in Ontario and funds essential research to find a treatment and a cure.

Register and raise funds online at  
[www.walkforals.ca/ontario](http://www.walkforals.ca/ontario)

SAVE UP TO \$38 ON YOUR NEXT GROCERY BILL!  
Flyerland.ca

