

Friend recalls doctors saying that Hickey was dying

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can become life-threatening in a very short period of time.

Hammond recalled the commotion at the hospital as staff worked quickly to help her dear friend.

"The nurse called the OR (operating room) and people started running. They were coming to amputate his foot," she said. "The

doctor told me, 'You better call his next of kin because he's dying'"

While the initial surgery amputated Hickey's left foot, a couple days later it was determined that part of his leg also needed to be removed to save his life. His left leg was amputated below the knee.

Although it may seem hard to believe that someone who just stared death in the face could be in

the mood for jokes, a sense of humour has been a saving grace for both Hickey and Hammond.

"After his surgery, he made the first joke," Hammond recalled. "He looked down and said, 'I guess I should ask for a half price pedicure.' You have to have a good sense of humour because if you don't laugh, you'll cry. You can be sad, you can be mad, you can an-

gry, but it's not worth it. You just need to be happy for every moment that you have and remember it could always be worse."

Laughter and a positive attitude helped Hickey throughout his long recovery, which involved a lengthy hospital stay and rehabilitation at West Park Healthcare Centre in Toronto.

"I had to relearn how to do ev-

erything, like how to get out of bed and how to go to the washroom. It's like you're being retrained on everything you learned to do as a kid," he said. "My whole life has changed. Everything I do now is going to be a new challenge, no matter what it is."

The experience hasn't only changed Hickey's life forever; it

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