

GEORGETOWN MAN GIVING BACK AFTER NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE

EVENT TO BENEFIT HALTON DIABETES PROGRAM ON THIS WEEKEND

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Paul Marsh was staring death in the face.

As the Georgetown man lay in a hospital bed after coming out of a diabetic coma, he made a promise to himself.

"I thought if I survive this thing, I'll do whatever I can to make life better for others," he recalled.

And the 60-year-old is staying true to his word. This coming weekend, he will be hosting a massive furniture and autographed memorabilia sale, with proceeds going to benefit not only the Halton Diabetes Program that helped bring him back to health,

but also his adult son Duane, who became a quadriplegic following a car accident and lives in an extendicare facility.

The local man's alarming story started on a trip to Cuba, where he collapsed and was rushed to hospital. Unbeknownst to him, he had developed type 1 diabetes and fell into a diabetic coma for several days.

"To have this diagnosis all of a sudden was really shocking. Basically I wasn't going to make it," he said. "I knew if I didn't get on a plane back to Canada, I was done."

After arriving home, he was quickly admitted to the intensive care unit at the Georgetown Hospital, where he stayed for two weeks as he was nursed back to health.

He then began seeing a specialist in Oakville and frequenting the Georgetown branch of the Halton Diabetes Program, where he received guidance on taking his four daily shots of insulin properly, diet and other changes necessary to get better.

"If it wasn't for Jennifer (at the Halton Diabetes Program) and her strong outlook on diabetes, I don't know where I'd be," he said. "She was so helpful. She took me from a depressed mood and encouraged me to keep going."

Today, Marsh's health and blood sugars have made a dramatic turnaround - so good that doctors have been able to safely take him off insulin and put him on Metformin instead.

"I feel really blessed," he said. "I have so many things in life to look forward to."

With his health stabilized, Marsh and his wife Diane are ready to give back to others. Their sale this weekend will include everything from custom live edge tables and exclusive vintage and antique furniture to autographed memorabilia from some very famous sports and entertainment names, including the likes of David Bowie and Keith Richards.

All items are originals and have been authenticated. Many of the pieces available for sale have been



Melanie Hennessey/Torstar

Georgetown resident Paul Marsh displays some of the vintage items he will have available at his charity sale this weekend.

in the Marsh family for some time, with his father and grandfather also being collectors.

The sale is being held at the Marsh home at 15303 Argyll Rd., Georgetown,

where the couple will be staging a living room scene under a big top tent in their driveway. It will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from June 28 to 30, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on

July 1.

"I really want to give back," said Marsh. "I also want people to know that just because you're diagnosed with diabetes, it doesn't mean it's the end."

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