

A personal story about mesothelioma



Mesothelioma, more precisely malignant mesothelioma, is a rare form of cancer that develops from the protective lining that covers

many of the body's internal organs, the mesothelium.

My Dad, Dave Ford, died of mesothelioma on October 18, 2008, at the age of 70. Prior to his diagnosis in 2007, he was enjoying a well-deserved retirement with family and friends. He was a highly skilled electrician who worked all his life in industry and he loved his chosen field of work. My Dad was a very outgoing, fun-loving guy who never ceased coming up with unique ideas involving electricity. His grandchildren called him their Magical Granddad.

My Dad showed great strength of character throughout his illness, which shattered our lives and the lives of so many close family friends. As we struggled with him through his battle with this terminal cancer, we were devastated to learn how little appeared to be known about recognizing and treating mesothelioma, and how little support and information was readily available. As mesothelioma is a terminal cancer caused only by asbestos, it is most frequently contracted as a direct result of workers being exposed to asbestos while carrying out their occupation. Sadly, this deadly disease doesn't show itself until decades after exposure

After his death, we decided that we would try and raise money for this cause. Surprisingly, we learned that there was no fund in Canada that had been set up for asbestos-related initiatives. With this in mind, and in loving memory of my Dad, my Mum and I have spent the past year setting up the **Asbestos-related Research, Education and Advocacy Fund (AREA Fund)**

www.areafund.ca. This fund will help provide financial support to those who are dedicating their time and energy to this worthy cause.

The Vancouver Foundation was selected as the community organization within which to establish the fund, as it is Canada's largest community foundation (in existence since 1943) helping people and organizations give back to communities. As an endowment fund, the **AREA Fund** will exist in

perpetuity and grow with each donation, generating revenue for this important work over the long-term. The Fund Trustees, a group of knowledgeable and dedicated individuals will work together each year to decide how the available grant money will be awarded.

To learn more about the cause, to share a story, or to make a donation (anonymous or not) in tribute/memory of a loved one, please visit www.areafund.ca.



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