

## **Richmond Hill man walks 17,000 steps – one for each York Region resident living with dementia**

*Bruce and David Rhodes, the Honorary Family for the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's, are also walking in honour of their wife/mother who died from dementia*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - AURORA, ON (May 7, 2021) – Richmond Hill resident Bruce Rhodes will be walking 17,000 steps Saturday, May 29 during the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's. Each step represents every York Region resident living with dementia. He will also be remembering his wife, Liz Maynes, who died two years ago after a nine-year battle with dementia. Liz was 61.

“Sadly, so many people, so many families, are touched by dementia,” Rhodes said. “Unfortunately, it’s a disease that casts a very wide net.”

Liz was an associate professor of corporate finance at York University’s Schulich School of Business and co-authored five editions of a finance textbook. She was diagnosed with behaviour-variant frontotemporal dementia (FTD), where nerve cells in the frontal and temporal lobes shrink, causing behavioural, personality, language and movement changes, in 2013. Liz was having trouble understanding reality, behaved like a child and couldn’t remember words.

“She had to look up the meanings of them. It was heartbreaking.”

For David, the couple’s only child, his entire high school and post-secondary school career was shadowed by his mom’s illness. It has taken him the two years since her passing to “reflect on her and her illness without feeling overwhelmed.”

Bruce and David Rhodes are the Alzheimer Society of York Region’s Honorary Family for the virtual #IGWalkforAlz . They are helping raise funds to support York Region residents impacted by dementia. People are encouraged to register and begin raising funds to support programs and services. All money raised in York Region stays in York Region. Learn more: <https://alzheimer.ca/york/en/IGWalkforAlz2021>

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### **About the Alzheimer Society York Region (AS York):**

The Alzheimer Society of York Region is a leader in actively supporting individuals and families living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. Our quality, dementia-

specific D.A.Y. program services, enriched social work program and education opportunities are well respected.

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Please feel free to use the information in this story (or use the story):

<https://alzheimer.ca/york/whats-happening/news/honorary-family-david-bruce-rhodes>

Bruce's walk: [bit.ly/BRhodesWalk](http://bit.ly/BRhodesWalk)

Pictures are courtesy of Bruce and David Rhodes

**Bruce is available to speak to the media.** Contact Lisa Day, communications and fund development coordinator, at [lday@alzheimer-york.com](mailto:lday@alzheimer-york.com) to arrange an interview.

Hashtags: #IGWalkforAlz , #AlzStepChallenge , #OurConnectionsMatter