

William Gow:

Due to a very serious depression problem and spending time at Homewood Hospital in Guelph, I had not had a regular medical "Physical" in 5 years or so.

My wife Barbara suggested that, due to me being listless and a bit tired, that I should make an appointment with our GP. That was September 1998. By November of that year, after numerous tests: additional PSAs, Cat Scans, Bone Scans and a biopsy with 3 of the 7 samples being positive, I was told that I had prostate cancer!

I didn't go through the phase of "Why me?" I had been sick enough with depression to understand that serious illnesses can strike anyone. However, Barbara and I discussed that we couldn't let this illness put me back into a depressed mode. Once we had selected our urologist, Dr. Skeldon and I had decided on a Radical Prostatectomy. He scheduled my operation for December 19, 1998.

No way was that going to happen! I felt good and the previous 5 or 6 festive periods had not been the most enjoyable for my family due to my other previous health problems.

The operation took place on January 25, 1999 and other than 4 ½ hours on the slab, I didn't have any immediate concerns. Like some others, incontinence was a bit of a problem for 3 - 4 months, but I was playing tennis by June of that year. Now, impotence was something else. Both

Barbara and I knew that there is a big difference between love and sex. We didn't let it affect us. At about 2 ½ years after the operation, erections started to return and now at 4 ½ years, life is near normal. However, I am not 24 or 25 years old either!

So there you have it folks. Yes, I do have regular PSAs every 6 months. Some minor health problems had developed but nothing serious.

Thank you.