

And it's not a coincidence.



Shop a lot. Save a lot.

TORONTO LIFE

Search:



My Toronto Life:

[Log-in](#) | [Register](#)

May


[HOME](#) [RESTAURANTS](#) [WINE & FOOD](#) [REAL ESTATE](#) [MOVIES & NIGHTLIFE](#) [SHOPPING](#) [CULTURE & RECREATION](#) [FEATURES](#)

Code Blue: Five Medical Case Studies - Page 2

February 2006

**Patient:** Keith Hautala, age 32**Problem:** Diagnosed with a massive cancerous tumour in his jawbone**Doctor:** Jonathan Irish, chief of surgical oncology at Princess Margaret Hospital

Keith Hautala spent the summer of 2002 in Alberta studying the habitat of the northern goshawk for his forest science degree at Lakehead University. When he returned home to Thunder Bay that fall, his girlfriend noticed an asymmetry to his jaw; at Christmas, relatives made similar observations. A visit to the doctor in February 2003 led to consultations with oral surgeons. Then he received the terrifying news: he had a rare chondrosarcoma—a tumour in the cartilage—in his jawbone.

Hautala was referred to Princess Margaret Hospital to meet with its chief of surgical oncology. "My doctors in Thunder Bay said, 'You're going to go to see Dr. Jonathan Irish. He's the best of the best,'" recalls Hautala. When Irish met him two months later, the tumour, which was aggressively malignant, was the size of a fist. Irish proposed an elaborate surgery. On May 1, two teams—one led by Irish, the other by a reconstructive surgeon named Ralph Gilbert—went to work on Hautala's face. After performing a tracheotomy, Irish made an incision behind Hautala's left ear that ran along his jaw, down over his Adam's apple and up the other side to his other ear. The bottom portion of his face was then "degloved" or peeled back. While Irish removed Hautala's lower jaw and teeth, Gilbert cut into Hautala's left leg, harvesting bone from the fibula to sculpt a new mandible. The new lower jaw was then secured with a titanium plate. Six weeks later, false teeth were inserted into his jaw. Skin from his leg was used to seal the floor of his mouth.

When Hautala regained consciousness, he was swollen up like a beach ball and in terrible pain. "It was truly horrendous, I can't sugar-coat it," he says. But he remembers Irish being chuffed. "He walked in saying, 'Jesus, this is excellent, Keith. This is perfect!' And I'm looking at him and thinking, 'I'm so far from perfect.'"

Current Iss


[Subscri](#)
[Life Ma](#)
[Give a C](#)
[Renew!](#)
[Check /](#)
[Change](#)
[Subscrij](#)

Contests

Subscribe to win a trip to Portugal

Tastes of Toronto

Meet MAROON 5 in Toronto

BMW Drive in Style Contest

The Four Seasons & Polyphonia & Wolf's Court

Win tickets to see Gore Vidal at Luminato!

Win Dinner for you and four friends!

Win tickets to Toronto Taste

Balanchine's Don Quixote Contest


[Arts &](#)
[Bars a](#)
[Entert](#)
[Fashic](#)
[Fitnes](#)
[Food i](#)
[Getaw](#)
[Guide](#)
[Golf C](#)
[Good](#)
[Home](#)
[Kids &](#)
[Real E](#)
[Restau](#)
[Wine t](#)

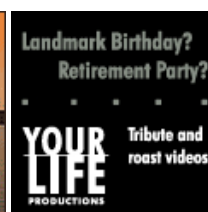
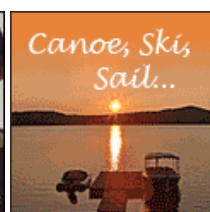
“Twenty years ago, he would have lost his mandible,” says Irish. “He would have looked disfigured. Frankly, he would have been a monster. But now we can return him to a reasonable quality of life.” Not that it’s been a cakewalk: nerve damage has left Hautala without feeling in his lower lip and chin; he also has reduced function in his salivary glands, which sometimes leads to dry mouth. Plus, 25 treatments of targeted radiation have degenerated his new jaw; his chin doesn’t protrude like it used to. This month, he’s planning to have a second surgery, to take bone from his right fibula to bolster the initial splint.

With only a narrow chance of a relapse, Hautala’s prognosis looks good. Now employed by a forestry consulting firm in Thunder Bay, he takes a pragmatic view of his so-called “battle” with cancer. “Dr. Irish and Dr. Gilbert and all the oncology nurses and the researchers are the ones battling cancer,” he says. “I’m just the battlefield.”

[← BACK](#)

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)

[CONTINUE →](#)
Patient: Nick Schoenhoff,
age 14 Problem: Broke his
neck in ...



CUSTOMER SERVICE

[Subscribe to Toronto Life magazine](#)
[Give a gift](#)
[Enquire about subscriptions](#)
[Renew subscription](#)
[Check account status](#)
[Change of address](#)
[Frequently asked questions](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Cheap eats](#)
[Urban Decoder](#)
[Chatto's Digest](#)
[Find a restaurant](#)
[Find events](#)
[Where to get good stuff cheap](#)
[Movies and nightlife](#)

SEARCH FOR

[Restaurant reviews](#)
[Recommended wines](#)
[Something to do tonight](#)
[Something to do this weekend](#)
[A cultural event](#)
[Marketplace classifieds](#)
[Feature articles](#)

NEWSLETTER

Stay on top of
has to offer w
free weekly e

Preview

Toronto

Your e-mail a

St. Joseph
MEDIA

[subscribe](#) [newsletters](#) [privacy policy](#) [about us](#) [contact us](#) [masthead](#) [advertise](#) [sister](#)

TORONTO LIFE

© 2007. All Rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.
Toronto Life is a registered trademark of Toronto Life Publishing Company Limited

[Browser Support](#)