



**Bill Watson**

In 2001, my family doctor became concerned with why my hemoglobin was dropping with each annual visit. A bone marrow confirmed that I was suffering from Myeloid Dysplastic Syndrome (MDS). For the next seven years, I was treated with B Six medication. Following a double bypass in 2007, my dependence on blood transfusions increased.

In late 2008, I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre. This was a real shock and a very depressing outlook as I knew of several people who had died from leukemia. I was entered in a drug study in early December of that year and it showed great promise for the first six months. At month eight a bone marrow biopsy showed disappointing results and by month ten another biopsy confirmed that the Drug had stopped working. My Ottawa medical team then applied to get approval for a new drug called Vidaza and I began treatment in October of 2009. I have responded to this drug and continue to receive treatments. The results have been most encouraging. I feel much better and long time friends say I look much better.

A year ago, I learned about "Light the Night" and brought information back to my workplace, where my assistant thought that this could be a fun thing to do. She organized and recruited eight other staff members to join in the fun. Surprisingly we raised close to seven thousand dollars with no corporate support. I feel most fortunate to be still here today and able to enjoy most of my normal activities. I feel I must give back so that others can have hope when they receive disappointing reports. We must not give up the fight to find a cure. This may become possible with the help of family, friends and community by supporting "Light the Night" to help raise funds for Lymphoma and Leukemia research.