

'DON'T BE ARROGANT, IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU'

LOCAL MAN DISCHARGED AFTER 85 DAYS IN HOSPITAL FOR COVID-19

ROLAND CILLIERS
rcilliers@metroland.com

It's been a long journey, but it ended with accordion music.

Ronald Weston, 61, was officially discharged from Burlington's Joseph Brant Hospital on June 19 after spending 85 days in the hospital as a result of COVID-19. The Burlington man was diagnosed with the virus on March 25 and was put in a medically induced coma for 30 days during treatment.

What's the first thing he's going to do once he gets home?

"Having a beer," said Weston. "Spend some time with my family, relax and start continuing the rehab at home."

As of June 19 Halton Region reports there are 710 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Halton. Weston is one of the 682 recovered or resolved cases in the region.

When he left the hospital main entrance he was greeted by cheering family and supporters and one man who played 'When the Saints go marching in' on accordion. The atmosphere was ju-

bilant and people held signs welcoming him home and

said "Joseph Brant presents Ron Weston as the Covinator."

Weston had a message of caution to those who may not be taking COVID-19 all that seriously.

"It can happen to you - take precautions," said Weston. "I didn't think there was any chance I would get this because I tend to not to get a lot of viral infections like the flu. So don't be arrogant - it can happen to you."

Even after the months of hospitalization, he is still feeling the effects of the diseases. Weston has lost roughly 30 lbs, has a reduced lung capacity, a slight tremble and will be in rehab for some time now as his strength returns.

Weston's condition on COVID-19 went from nothing to serious in a remarkably short amount of time. He said that in two days he went from feeling fine to being in such a serious state that they put him in a medically induced coma for 30 days.

Weston described waking up from such a long coma as a profoundly strange experience.

"I've never done LSD, but I imagine it's something like that. The drugs are kind of still in your system so you have these hallucinations. I was a little confused be-



Graham Paine/Torstar

Ron Weston takes his first steps as he ventures outside of Jo Brant hospital after spending weeks in a coma battling COVID-19, as hospital workers applaud.

cause I don't remember anything other than arriving in hospital. So all of a sudden I wake up in this room with strangers around, no family telling me what happened. That was the hardest part the first few days," said Weston.

As of May 26, all residents who have at least one COVID-19 symptom are encouraged to get tested for the virus at an assessment centre. For more information on how to get tested and what the symptoms are visit www.halton.ca.

Weston does have a number of positive takeaways from the ordeal.

"I feel really lucky," said Weston. "Incredible outreach by friends and people I haven't seen in 20, 25 years emailing me, calling me. So if I'm trying to find a positive

out of a negative situation I reconnected with a lot of friends and if it's possible the love I feel for my family is probably a little deeper."

Weston is the father of two children who he said handled the situation very well.

A New Cemetery for Halton Region

A new cemetery has opened to serve members of the Catholic community in Halton. Located at the corner of Bronte Road and Lower Base Line, Holy Family Cemetery covers 100 acres – with space for 5,000 graves, 200 cremation lots and niche columbarium space in the first phase of development.

 THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
of the Diocese of Hamilton

For more information and to view a site plan, call 1-800-661-5985.
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