



WALKER, Christopher Gordon

It is with a sense of overwhelming sadness and incredible pride that we must advise of the loss of Christopher Gordon Walker who passed away on May 23rd, 2013 at the age of twenty-nine years. Words cannot describe this fine young man, who was practicing law at Farris, Vaughan Wills & Murphy in Vancouver when he was diagnosed with cancer in June of 2012. Chris (affectionately known as "Walker") has fought this fight the same way that he always lived his life - with determination, dignity and a gentle manner. He focused on living with cancer, not dying from it; he never gave up. He was lucky to be able to enjoy a number of special trips over the year including travelling to Mexico with Hannah, a fishing adventure with Tom and Steve and a trip to New York with his mother only a few weeks ago, those memories they will treasure forever. Chris was born in Calgary, Alberta on January 27th, 1984, the son of Ellen Walker-Matthews (nee: Brookman) and Gordon Walker. He spent his early years in Calgary before moving to Summerland, B.C. with his Mom in 1992. Ellen later married Tom Matthews and his son Stephen and daughter Krista became like a brother and sister to Christopher. Steve, Chris and his childhood friend Justin Kitchen shared many adventures together, some of which the family may never know about; and walked countless miles through the Okanagan with their two golden retrievers, Ben and Bailey. We are all sure that those two beautiful dogs are with Chris now along with the many members of Chris' extended family that have gone before. Chris went to Summerland Senior Secondary School and was always on the local hockey teams playing goalie for the Summerland Jets, Castlegar Rebels and coaching at the Okanagan Hockey School. He continued to be athletic throughout his life, playing hockey with a number of men's leagues in Vancouver, participating in a variety of marathons, bike races and ultimately taking on the challenge of the Ironman Canada Triathlon in Penticton 2 years in a row. Chris has a degree in Science from UBC, however when his initial intention to go into medicine didn't work out, he went into the law faculty at UBC and graduated with honors in June of 2010. He was a man that was universally liked by anyone that was lucky enough to meet him, but the one lady that he fell in love with was Hannah McDonald. Hannah and Chris met in law school and were planning to be married in June on Bowen Island. The entire McDonald family welcomed Chris into their hearts and they into his. It is impossible to describe the comfort and the pleasure that Hannah has brought to Chris throughout their entire relationship, but in particular during this terrible time in their lives. Hannah has been by his side constantly and has provided reassurance and real support throughout this ordeal. Hannah and Chris' Mom have worked tirelessly to keep Chris as comfortable and calm as possible. Chris and his entire family would like to thank the amazing Dr. Lim, who Chris adored, all of the staff at the British Columbia Cancer Centre in Vancouver and the wonderful

team of nurses and doctors on the 5th floor for all that they have done to help Christopher and all of us during this past year and in the last few weeks. We will also be forever grateful for the outpouring of love and support received by Chris' enormous group of friends and family members. We encourage all of Chris' family and friends to make a donation to the BC Cancer Foundation where we have established a memorial fund that can be accessed online at: <http://donate.bccancerfoundation.com/goto/CGWalker>, so that a day might come when families will not have to endure the grief of losing a loved one to this horrible disease. The funeral service will be held on Thursday, May 30th, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Canadian Memorial United Church located at West 15th and Burrard in Vancouver, British Columbia. Published in Vancouver Sun and/or The Province on May 25, 2013.