



Abbotsford Police Department

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Bob Rich
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"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

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Incident: Ecstasy Overdose – Survivor's Story

Before midnight on Friday, March 16, 2012 a 24 year old Abbotsford man took a quantity of ecstasy. In the hours that followed he would be in a battle for his life. After spending days in the intensive care unit in a medically induced coma, the 24 year old made a miraculous recovery and is alive to tell his story. He and his parents credit the attention directed to the recent, tragic deaths of Cheryl McCormack and Tyler Miller with saving his life.

The 24 year old was in the family home on Friday night. There was no party going on and he didn't have any friends over. His parents had gone to bed earlier. He had used ecstasy before. On this occasion he took what he believed was a safe dose. It turned out to be anything but. After taking the ecstasy he began to panic. Initially the concern was that he took too much but that quickly shifted to thoughts of the fellow Abbotsford residents Cheryl McCormack and Tyler Miller who lost their lives after consuming the drug. He had heard the stories in the media and it had been discussed numerous times amongst friends. It wasn't enough to stop him from taking the ecstasy on this night but it was enough, after taking it, to alert his parents and ask to be taken to the hospital.

The young man's parents did not know that their son used drugs, let alone ecstasy. He was hardworking, educated and hadn't been a problem for them, police or anyone else. Still, seeing the panic in his eyes and hearing him confess not only about the evening's drug use but other bad decisions, they took him straight to emergency. He was only in the hospital a short time before collapsing and being subject to the same medical procedures that had been used many times in the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland in recent months. The outcomes in many of those cases have been well publicized.

After being in a coma for 3 days the 24 year old began to show small signs of recovery and improvement. The family was cautiously optimistic. Days 4 and 5 showed real progress and it became clear that they would be able to take their son home. A week

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after he walked into the hospital, the young man walked out. Understandably his perspective on the use of street drugs and some of the bad decisions he made has completely changed.

He and his family have asked that the APD tell their story with a view to help others. They feel that if it were not for the courage of the families of Cheryl McCormack and Tyler Miller their son would have died. Like those families, this one knows first-hand that there are no safe street drugs. There are no safe amounts. There is no safe ecstasy.

The APD appreciates the family allowing us to share their story. Our messaging about the inherent risks involved with the use of street drugs is as important now as ever. Thanks to Cheryl, Tyler and their families, an Abbotsford family has another chance and a young man continues to live.

Although they have requested privacy the 24 year old man did want to share some words with others. The comments listed below are his:

On Friday night, March 16, I took what I thought was a safe dose of ecstasy. Within a short time, the "high" I experienced was much more intense than my past experiences. I did not consider this amount to be extreme at all but quickly realized that my situation was life threatening. I informed my parents immediately and they rushed me to the hospital. I fully regained consciousness Tuesday morning, very confused about what had happened and where I was. After learning days later, I quickly came to the understanding of what I had just put my friends and family through. Also, the knowledge that my survival and full recovery from these circumstances is very rare: I was "lucky", I am a miracle, I was saved by the grace of God for a reason. I want my life and this experience to have a positive impact on the lives of others! With any dose of whatever you may think you are getting, you could very easily end up like others who took the risks I did!

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