

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday February 13, 2013
For Immediate Release

Preventing Antidepressant Tragedies discussion in London on February 21

Toronto, Ontario – On Thursday February 21, 2013, David Carmichael will be sharing his tragic antidepressant story and facilitating a discussion on “Preventing Antidepressant Tragedies” from 7 to 8pm at the London Public Library (Central location) at 251 Dundas Street – Stevenson & Hunt A/B meeting room - in downtown London, Ontario.

On July 31, 2004, David Carmichael killed his 11-year-old son Ian in a London hotel room 3 weeks after starting the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) Paxil and 2 weeks after increasing his dosage from 40 to 60mg. He was diagnosed as being in a “major depression” with “psychotic episodes” when he killed Ian and was judged to be not criminally responsible.

According to Carmichael, who first spoke out publicly in 2006 to prevent family tragedies like his, “People need to be aware of the most common and severe side effects of antidepressants so they can make informed treatment decisions with their doctors and other healthcare professionals.”

During the discussion, Carmichael will explain how difficult it is, based on his own experience, to tell if someone is psychotic (hallucinations and/or delusions). He will talk about the importance of being closely monitored during the first few weeks after starting an antidepressant, after dosages have been changed and when the drug is stopped.

By the end of the discussion, people will have an understanding of how someone being treated for a mental illness could commit suicide and/or homicide with an outward appearance of being calm, organized and thinking rationally. Extreme examples of this are the shooters in the Aurora Theatre and Sandy Hook Elementary School mass killings. Both of them were being treated for mental illness. About 90% of school shooters were on prescription drugs.

David Carmichael received an absolute discharge from the Ontario Review Board in 2009. He has reconciled with his wife and daughter and is the media relations officer at RxISK.org.

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