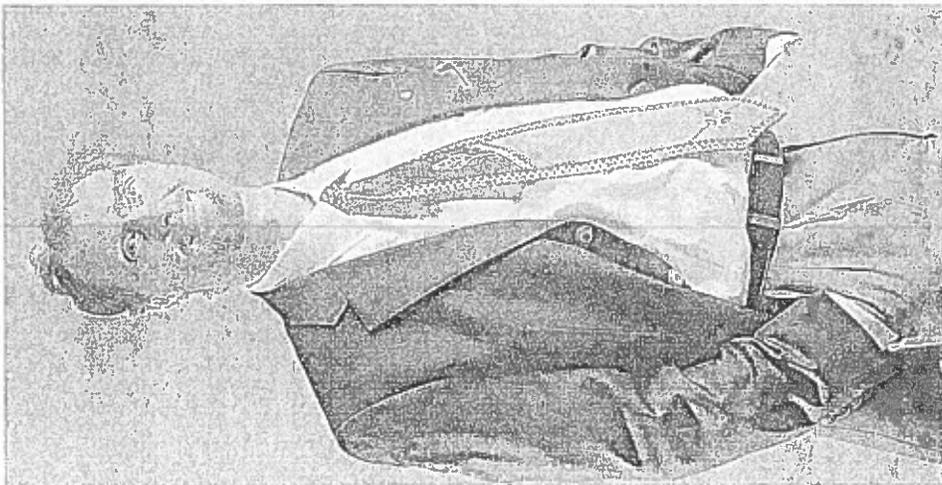


Inspired



# ‘Yes, this hurts like hell, but I am going to succeed’

By Brent Lawson

It was as if the Good Samaritan got mugged. Michael McGauley had stopped to help a motorist injured in a traffic accident when he himself was hit by a drunk driver.

Crushed between two cars, McGauley was near-death, his legs shattered by the horrifying impact.

"They told me I would never walk again," he tells audiences. "So I learned to run."

In this parable, McGauley's long and painful battle to overcome his devastating injuries is proving to be a lesson to others who face challenges.

After 23 operations in seven years, McGauley knows all too well that life can be an uphill struggle. At one point doctors told him amputation of his legs was necessary. He balked and encouraged them to reconsider.

The seemingly endless rounds of surgery and rehabilitation took their toll on the gaunt figure who appeared to be nothing more than skin and bones.

"I hit bottom about 18 months after the accident. I was very, very depressed and angry. Angry at God, angry at everything. I was a very bitter person to be around."

But McGauley defied the experts who said he would never walk again. He even completed a mini-triathlon.

Along the way he began a company, Dream Builders.

He now helps others to exercise their willpower, handle stress and cope with the constant change that permeates virtually all aspects of life.

What prompted the dramatic turnaround in his approach?

He credits the book, *The Road Less Travelled*, for starting the process. Author M. Scott Peck has written several

popular books on spiritual growth and self-examination. For example, the book outlines the simple but basic truism that life is difficult. It hit home.

"It meant I'm responsible for whatever I choose to do with this life. It was a bitter pill to swallow." He had some inner reserves to tap after successfully overcoming the challenge of dyslexia in high school.

"All of a sudden I stopped being a victim of the accident and started taking control of my life and making my own choices."

Even in his wheelchair, he began to visualize positive images, like skiing. He set daily goals. He refused to take no for an answer. He used willpower and persistence.

Medical staff couldn't understand why he appeared so happy and had such a positive outlook no matter what bad news arrived on the medical front.

He told them: "I'm beating this. I am excited to be alive. Yes, this hurts like hell, but I am going to succeed."

Medical staff began asking him to speak to other patients who were having a difficult time.

Now he makes a living helping people step back, refocus and find some perspective on life.

The system he developed to turn his own life around became the framework for the coaching he now provides to others. For details, see the [www.thedreambuildersinc.com](http://www.thedreambuildersinc.com) website.

He encourages people to face life's challenges head-on. "You can spend your life trying to learn one lesson, or face it and move on to the next one."

For more information about Michael, visit [www.thedreambuildersinc.com](http://www.thedreambuildersinc.com)

To book Michael McGauley for interviews, keynote speaking and/or workshops, contact Cheryle of CB Communications, 416-706-3245.

CAITHE COWARD, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Michael McGauley was told he would not walk again. Now he runs – a triathlon and Dream Builders.