

## SPORTS

# Steelheads executive returns after bout with leukemia

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Scott Rogers has experienced a lot of change over the last year. He was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in December of 2015 and as a result had to take a sabbatical from his role as vice president and director of business operations with the Ontario Hockey League's Mississauga Steelheads.

In that time, he was fortunate enough that his older brother Jeff was a perfect match for a bone-marrow transplant, which was conducted last spring.

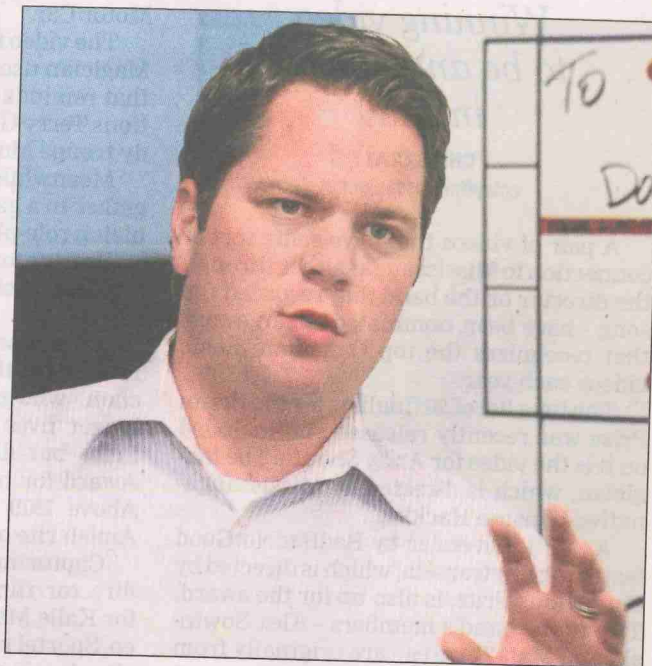
After transitioning back to work gradually, Rogers returned to work full-time in mid January, just in time to be in the annual team photo, which was taken at the end of the month.

While the Oakville resident was fortunate to spend time with his family during his recovery, he decided he was ready to return now that his three children are old enough for kindergarten or preschool.

"I spent a summer - under different circumstances - with my kids and that was fantastic," said Rogers, who's been in remission for almost a year.

"We had a great holiday this year, whereas we didn't really have a holiday at all last year because I was in the hospital."

Rogers, 33, gives a ton of credit to Alana Davidson



Metroland file photo

**Scott Rogers, vice president and director of business operations for the Mississauga Steelheads, has returned to work full time after battling leukemia all of last year.**

and Matt Appleby, both of whom stepped up to help fill in his role while he was away.

As well, the Steelheads brought in a few more bodies to help out with its school and minor hockey programs as well as corporate sales and other business endeavours.

"I think for the most part, fans wouldn't know (I've been away) besides the fact they haven't seen me because everything's been business as usual around here," he said.

Rogers was treated by

Dr. Kylie Lepic and the hematology team at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre in Hamilton.

He's now working with the hospital on its Tomorrow Stems from You campaign, which is aimed toward raising \$3.5 million to expand its clinical space and purchase essential equipment for stem cell treatment.

While he still has to be careful because of a weakened immune system, Rogers hopes to be able to attend Steelheads games live later this month.