



IN-PERSON CONFERENCE

Theme: Resilience and Reinvention

Friday, September 9, 2022
Saturday, September 10, 2022

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Westhaver



John Westhaver was born in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, a small town located on the east bank of the St. Croix River. He was a well-rounded, responsible student with a close group of friends. In 1994, a month and a half before his high school graduation, John was in a horrific car crash with three other young men. The teens had been enjoying a typical Friday night – drinking beer in the car, blasting music, and speeding. Although the driver of the vehicle was sober, the car lost control at a sharp bend and hit a telephone pole, killing everyone in the car except John.

When he awoke from a medically-induced coma a month later, John learned that his friends had died in the crash. He was fortunate to be alive but had suffered life-threatening burns to 75 percent of his body. Through his extensive rehabilitation, John found the strength to move forward. His ongoing recovery inspired him to devote his life to helping others make the choices that he hadn't.

When John moved to Victoria, British Columbia, in 2000, he joined a burn support group. His physical therapist, inspired by John's natural ability to uplift and inspire others, suggested that he consider public speaking. John joined Toastmasters and conducted his first presentation in 2002. John has been an active speaker with the ICBC Road Safety Speaker Program since January 2009.

John has been speaking to students for two decades across Canada and the U.S.A. With over 700 presentations completed, he is a very established and powerful motivational speaker. He is dedicated to empowering youth with the courage and strength to make responsible choices in everyday life. John's long list of clients includes: Firefighters Burn Fund Victoria, BC; Insurance Corporation of British Columbia; Crime Stoppers; Vancouver Island Health Authority; Connecticut Burn Care Foundation; and Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.

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