

NOTES OF IMPORTANCE

- Barry Kennedy

Many changes have taken place since our last issue of the Communique. I will list them not in order of importance but simply as they happened.

- 1) Move to 53 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto (2 blocks west of Yonge St.) our new phone number is 226-1990. Our new office located in an old house which is used primarily as a Real Estate office (B. Hogger Real Estate) during the day and P.F. takes over in the evening hours.
- 2) Mary Jane Brinkos has resigned the Presidency as of March 15/84 and resigned as Director effective June 5, 1984. Mary Jane has served P.F. well over her many years of association with our group. In her own choice of words she is "Burned Out" but will still take an active part in P.F. as a member at large. On behalf of the Board of Directrs and membership THANKS MARY JANE!!!
- 3) New appointments and duties:
 - Barry Kennedy - President
 - Joy Frank - Secretary
 - Paula Breda - Treasurer & New Director
 - Stephen Rayfield - Editor of P.F. Communique
- 4) Office will be open every Tuesday night (except meeting nights) from 7:30 p.m. till 10:30 p.m. and at least one member of the Board will be in attendance as of April 1984.

May 1/84 - Meeting - Liz Ferguson - Chairperson
 May 8/84 - Office - Wm. Ferguson
 May 15/84 - " - Wm. Mercer
 May 22/84 - " - Rob Sutherland

June 5/84 - Meeting - Mary Jane Brinkos - Chairperson
 June 12/84 - Office - Stephen Rayfield
 June 19/84 - " - Paula Breda
 June 26/84 - " - Barry Kennedy

July 2/84 - Meeting

The office will be open for additional search help and we also could use more volunteer help to answer phone calls, type letters (or write), filing information, address envelopes etc. etc., If you can help - please come out - no appointment or invitation is necessary.

- 5) Registration cards will be issued as new applications are received. Old applicants who would like to receive a card, please contact the office and one will be issued. These cards will be required to receive assistance in Search Groups at the meetins. Please carry it with you.
- 6) Registration fee is increased to \$30.00 effective April/84 (NOTE: this is a one time charge) membership fee will remain at \$10.00 yearly. Yearly membership also includes Communique 5 times annually. Please advise the office of any address changes.
- 7) New Feature" for P.F. Communique "Classified Section" - If you would like to insert a personal message in this section, please submit to P.F. office. We reserve the right to edit (open to members only- no charge). For other classified ads or display ads, please contact the office for information & rates.

I have asked myself many times whether I would do it again. I keep coming back to the same answer; YES. My search for my birth mother began long before I approached the Children's Aid Society for some non-identifying information. It began long before the endless hours I spent looking through phone books and libraries. I was just never aware of it. Not until I was 35 years old did I begin to understand the dreams which have haunted my life; dreams spent searching for a door without knowing where it led. Dreams in which people would leave me, or pretend they didn't know me, or avoid me, or die. One thing is the same about all my dreams - I end up alone. Abandoned. Empty. Unbearably sad.

Did I really understand when I began my search for my birth family that every emotion would be magnified? The fear, anger, loneliness and depression on the one hand, and the terrific emotional "highs" on the other, combined with the excitement of the detective work needed for the search, do tend to distract one from the normal work-a-day world. There were times when my family would have happily escorted me to the door. To say I was difficult to live with would be an understatement; even I didn't like living with me. I still find it hard to comprehend my husband's never-ending understanding, patience and love which always managed to break through my walls of silence.

People who feel that adoptees search only to satisfy a superficial curiosity cannot possibly understand the emotional investment necessary to pursue that missing first chapter of one's life. Adoptees have no biological connections or continuity in life. Not having any knowledge of a biological family can create a geneological bewilderment which can lead to a negative self image and can prevent the adoptee from forming any meaningful relationships. Psychiatrist Robert Jay Lifton said "...this gap in identity contributes to a sense of distance from other people, a sense of unreality, that adopted people constantly feel. (Adoptees) have no organic link that they know of, and the psychological relationship to that link is very important. If the adoptee never finds his or her parents, he or she goes through life with a gap in identity, a sense of distance or lack of intimacy in most relationships." Trying to fill this gap cannot be called curiosity; it is for many people a necessity to enable them to be set free from the past.

Joy Frank



SOMETIMES

LOVE

WEARS

ALL

YOUR

FUR

AWAY



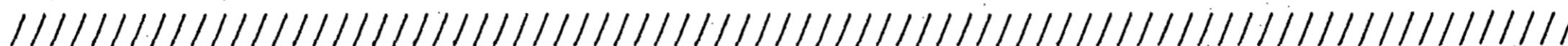


PFI Communiqué

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M2N 1M4
(416)226-1990

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UP-TO-DATE:

Our Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday June 5th, 1984 at our regular meeting place (St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario). The result of the elections follows, but the most significant change came with the retirement of our President. Mary Jane Brinkos has stepped down, after eight years of faithful, tireless dedication. She has decided to become less active with the group, while still being available for help and knowledge in areas that only she can relate to.

We were also saddened to lose another long time Board Member, William Mercer, who along with his supporting wife June, have helped P.F.I. on countless occasions in a wide variety of ways, especially with Legislation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mary Jane and Will for their dedication, the tireless effort and the years of service that they have contributed to Parent Finders.

As a result of these retirements, we had two places on the Board to fill as well as two positions for re-elections. The Board Of Directors for Parent Finders Incorporated from June 1984 to June 1985 is:

- Mr. J. Barry Kennedy ---- President
- Mr. R. Stephen Rayfield-- Vice-President & Editor P.F.I. Communique
- Mrs. Joy Frank ----- Secretary & Media Co-Ordinator
- Mrs. Joan Allard ----- Treasurer
- Miss Paola Breda ----- Search Co-Ordinator
- Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson
- Rev. William Ferguson
- Mrs. Iris Furgiuele
- Mr. Robert Sutherland

To all members - Have a good year! To the new members - Welcome aboard!

III

BOUQUET : A very special thank you is extended to Mrs. Pat Tyler for agreeing to assist our group by taking on the responsibility of heading the 'Refreshment Committee'. If anyone is willing to assist her please contact Pat at our monthly meetings or call the office at 226-1990.

As most of our regular Toronto members are aware, we offer coffee & tea at the monthly meetings to try and offset the rental charge for the Church Hall, as well as to give people something in the way of a "break" during a usually stressful evening. This service has run at a loss for many years and can only hope to break even with your support. We welcome your comments (positive or negative) regarding refreshments, or on any other matter of concern to you.

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TORONTO SUN : July 19th, 1984

Adoptive parents should lose the right to veto reunions between their child and his birth parents once the child turns 18, the Metro Children's Aid Society said yesterday. Doug Barr, the society's executive director, also said the law should be changed to permit societies to conduct searches on behalf of any adopted child or natural parent who has asked to be included on the province's central adoption registry.

He said research has shown that a reunion with the natural parents is a positive experience for the adopted child and seldom threatens his or her relationship with adoptive parents. The C.A.S. has no objection to continuing the present practice of permitting the adoptive parents to veto reunions until the child reaches the age of 18, BUT giving them the same power when the child legally becomes an adult is "totally inappropriate".

Barr also told the Legislature's social development committee that portions of the act preventing children and adoptive parents from obtaining non-identifying medical information about the natural parents is "frightenly regressive". "It proposes with one stroke of the pen to make illegal the current practices of the majority of the C.A.S.'s which now share non-identifying information with adult adoptees requesting it. IT IS TIME WE BROUGHT ADOPTION INFORMATION-SHARING IN ONTARIO INTO THE 1980's".

Comment:

You see, there is still hope for us with the agencies. We should direct some comments to Mr. Barr thanking him for his intelligent outlook at a mostly unintelligently handled situation.

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Q U O T E

Can the last parting do much to hurt such Friendships between good souls,
Who have so long learnt to say farewell,
To love in absence, To trust through silence,
And to have faith in REUNION ?????

(Birthparent & Relative
Group of Edmonton, Alta.

August 1984)

Ottawa Citizen: Feb/84

This article appeared in the Citizen on February 14th. Valentine's Day, and involves a member of our Ottawa Parent Finders chapter.

- Finding a Valentine's Day card for today was a particularly difficult but pleasant job for JOAN MARSHALL of Holborn Ave., Nepean. It was for her mother and had to be just right because she had never given the woman a card before.

For seven years, Joan, 50 and mother of four, searched for her "birth mother" and only recently found her in Montreal. The card she selected reads: "To a very special mother." This very special mother is now 79, healthy and active, and has spent much of her life and money trying to track down the baby she gave birth to Dec. 13, 1934. She never married. She just wanted to see her child and swears she would have stayed in the background.

She was the eldest in a family of 11 in Montreal. When she became pregnant her family went into shock. They came up with a scheme to hide the birth. The 30 year old pregnant woman continued her job at a drug company for 6½ months and then went home. She went to her room and stayed there until it was all over.

The plan was so successful that one of her sister, 10 years younger, didn't know about the birth until Joan showed up in December, and she had been living in the same house in 1934. The baby girl was adopted by a couple living in Quebec City and began a life which Joan describes: "The sun rose and set around me. I was the first baby and had aunts and uncles who spoiled me rotten. I always knew I was adopted and it didn't bother me. My parents never tried to hide the fact. I had wonderful parents. The fact that I found my birth mother doesn't change my feeling towards my real mother."

She was first bothered by her lack of "birth roots" in 1958 when she applied for a permit to live in the United States and ran into problems with her birth certificate. "I discovered I was a no-name baby and my father had to straighten things up by showing my adoption papers."

Until 1977, she wondered about those roots. Then she read an article about Parent Finders, wrote some letters, became one of the three founding members of the Ottawa chapter, and its current president. The Ottawa chapter now has more than 100 members. Over the following years she watched many searches similar to hers come to successful conclusions, but her own search was long and frustrating. She ran into endless dead-ends.

In December, she made a trip to Montreal to meet a man she believed could be her birth mother's brother. The meeting had been arranged by telephone. With his wife, he met Joan at his apartment door. He studied her in silence then stepped forward and hugged her. He said he had no doubts. She too had seen something of herself in his face and knew the search was over. "It was one of the happiest days of my life. I fairly skipped down the streets when I left my uncle's home".

A few days later she sat in her mother's apartment. Both were armed with piles of old photos. Joan had records of dead-end searches. So did her mother.

cont'd.....

Ottawa Citizen: Feb/84 (cont'd)

Mother had made trips to Quebec City hoping to catch a glimpse of her daughter, but knew she never did. She was certain she would have known. Her basic problem was a curve thrown her early in her search, that her child had been adopted by a French-Canada family. That was untrue.

At that meeting, says the former no-name baby: "Something inside me just seemed to fall together." Was anybody hurt? Her adoptive parents for example? "They encouraged me. They knew I needed to know. They're very together people."

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"Good news, Mr. Thomas. You're not dyslexic at all—you're Welsh!"

Punch



FAMILY REUNION (with a twist)

Toronto Sun: Nov/83

This article appeared under the headline 'Drinking Buddy not a Stranger'

After a 16 year separation, Verna Williamson discovered her lost brother had been right in front of her nose for the past two months. And Tony Hachey 31, always knew he had sisters and brothers somewhere in Canada but had no idea he'd meet one of them in a Yonge St. bar.

A mutual friend introduced them two months ago and this weekend they compared family histories at a tavern during another chance meeting. "It's the weirdest thing I can imagine," said Williamson. "Just sitting in a bar and I'd already met him two months before." Another sister and brother also live in Toronto and Hachey is making plans to meet them. He is also trying to arrange a meeting with a younger sister, Marie, in Newfoundland.

The family of five children was broken up early in life in their native New Brunswick and Hachey was adopted at birth by his grandparents. He ended up in Toronto at age 11 and said he had a couple of visits with his sister but never really got a chance to know her.

"The last time I recall seeing my sister was about 16 years ago," said Hachey. "And only then from the other side of the street."

Comment: (personal only)

So-----be careful you never know who you may end up drinking with!!!!!!

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