

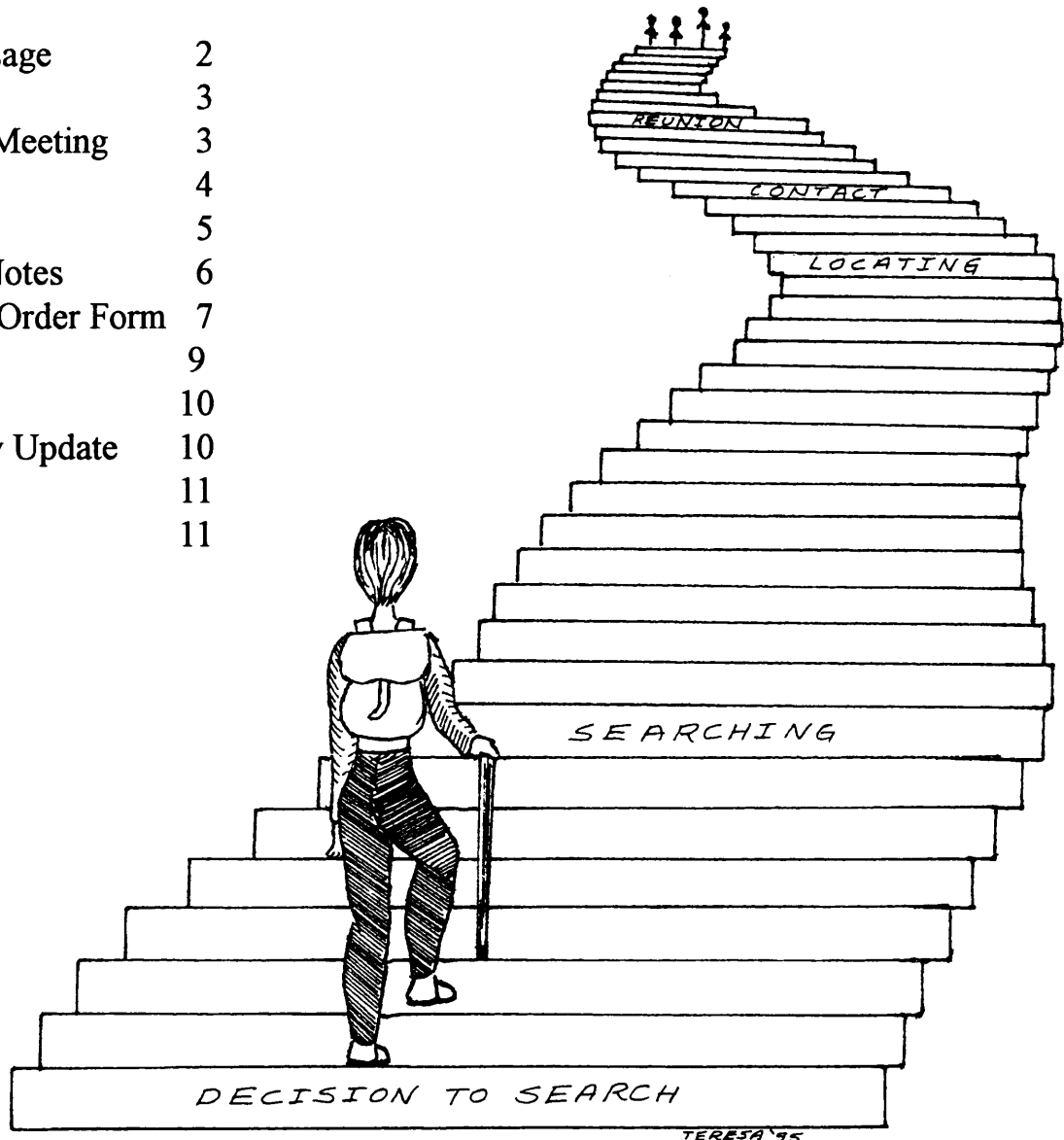
ADOPTION CIRCLES

CANADA'S POST-ADOPTION QUARTERLY

ISSUE 14 SPRING 1995 \$3.00

Inside...

President's Message	2
Editor's Notes	3
Annual General Meeting	3
Letters	4
Poetry	5
Conference '95 Notes	6
Audio Cassettes Order Form	7
Mediafile	9
Support Groups	10
Reunion Registry Update	10
Lean On Me List	11
Mail Order	11



ADOPTION CIRCLES
ISSUE #14 SPRING 1995

Publisher
**FORGET ME NOT FAMILY
SOCIETY**

President
CECELIA REEKIE

Vice-President
NANCY KATO

Secretary/Treasurer
GAIL DAVIES

Directors at Large
**JIM McNEIL
CATHERINE MOORE
DAVE MORCH
GINNY PAULSEN
ELSA WEINSTEIN**

Editor
DEBBIE BATE

Layout & Design
LISA CHAN

Cover Illustration
TERESA SPRING

Adoption Circles is published quarterly by Forget Me Not Family Society, a non-profit organization. Membership is \$24 per year. Send cheque to 10693 - 135A St. Surrey, BC V3T 4E3 Canada. (604) 581-0550. US residents send US funds. All rights reserved. No part(s) may be reproduced in any form without the consent of the author or the society. Content is author's opinion and may not reflect Forget Me Not Family Society's position. Send editorials and letters to the Editor or FAX to (604) 581-0550.

WHO WE ARE:
THE FORGET ME NOT FAMILY SOCIETY is a Provincially registered non-profit Society and a Registered Charitable Society with the Federal Government. Tax receipts are issued for donations to our Society.

Our Society was formed for education, consultation, peer counselling and to offer support to all those touched by adoption: adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents and concerned professionals.

Our only source of income for the Society is through membership fees, fundraising and donations. This money goes directly towards printing, postage, telephone rental and office equipment and supplies.

WHAT WE OFFER:

Experience shows that at various times in life, the issues and concerns of adoption need to be addressed. We provide our members with opportunities to gain further understanding of adoption issues.

•Educational workshops on post adoption issues for all members of the adoption circle and concerned professionals.

•An annual "Let's Talk About Reunions" conference to address a variety of post adoption issues.

•Referrals to support groups for birth parents, adult adoptees, family members or interested friends and relatives of triad members.

OUR MANDATE:

To encourage and develop a recognition of the benefits of family preservation and openness in adoption practice.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

Adoption Circles is published quarterly and is available by subscription to our Society. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in adoption and post adoption issues.

Comments and contributions are always welcome. Please mail submissions to our office or FAX to (604) 581-0550.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to acknowledge Sandi Blackie and Kathryn Vea whose dedication to this Society will be remembered for years to come. Your endless hours of hard work for the Society was immeasurable and invaluable, and you have both made a great impact in the adoption community. I wish you well in your future endeavors.

I am pleased to welcome Debbie Bate as our Newsletter editor. She will be working with Lisa Chan in producing a great newsletter full of information. If you have any comments or would like to see something addressed in the newsletter, please feel free to contact Debbie at (604) 540-1454. Thank you to Debbie and Lisa for the hours of volunteer time to get the newsletters together.

Our 3rd Canadian Conference "A Time to Heal" took place February 25 and 26. It was a great success with the largest turnout ever at just over 230 attendees. I would like to thank the Conference Committee for their time and effort in putting together such a great event. Special thanks to all the presenters and volunteers - without you the Society could not exist. Your support throughout the year is very much appreciated.

We have been working very hard in establishing relationships with other organizations in the province so that we can all work together to meet the needs of the adoption community. One organization is Parent Finders, and I would like to thank Joan Vanstone for her support and aide in assisting our members who are searching. Joan has agreed to register all our members into her Canada-wide database of 33,000 names. I can say, from my own personal experience, that Joan is very thorough in her job at reuniting families. If you would like to register with Parent Finders, please call me for more information at (604) 530-9982.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 22, 1995, from 10:00 - 3:00 at the New Westminster Public Library. I am looking forward to seeing our members and having you become more involved in our Society. I have had the pleasure of being President for the last couple of months and I have learned a great deal - it has been a great experience for myself. Special thanks go to Nancy Kato, Vice-President - I would not have made it through the last couple of months without her support. --CR

EDITOR'S NOTES

I cannot think of "just a few words" to sum up this year's 3rd Annual Canadian Conference on Post Adoption Issues, "A Time to Heal", but I can say that there weren't many emotions left unfelt by the end of the two-day seminar. The conference addressed a variety of post adoption issues and how they relate to those involved in the adoption circle, as well as provided assistance to those professionals who deal with these issues. I feel the outcome was extremely positive. The theme was to focus on healing and it worked for me, because though there will always be pain, there will also always be hope, and it's really nice to know there are outlets, like the conference, where feelings can be had in a safe and understanding environment.

Saturday morning's opening session was beautifully done with a candle lighting ceremony involving the adoptee, the birth parent, the adoptive parent and the professional. This officially began the weekend of exploration, hope and wellness.

The workshops, presentations, group discussions and informal gatherings all provided a much needed opportunity for participants to share experiences and learn together. I was grateful for the friendship name-and-address cards provided in my conference "goodie bag" as I connected with adoptees and birthmothers, reunited and otherwise.

Each of the 6 different workshops I attended provided me with new insight (and handouts!) into my situation and the situations of others. I hope each guest speaker realizes how important his or her work was throughout the conference weekend. Thank you all.

Conference volunteers facilitated a Book Room, which allowed attendees to purchase books and t-shirts, and provided posters for search information and networking. Also in the Book Room were volunteers from the UBC School of Psychology, available for counselling when and if needed. Audio tapes of most of the sessions were available and still are (look for the listing of available tapes and the order form in this newsletter). It was especially nice over the weekend to see so many people pulling together to make a success of the conference.

I hope all of you who were able to attend the conference were able to enjoy and learn from the workshops. I feel it is so vital for those of us in the Adoption Circle to gain understanding and knowledge to be able to confront whatever comes our way. I wish to personally thank everyone involved for a job well done, and I hope to see such a great turnout again next year.

Most importantly through this conference and through my relations with the Forget Me Not Family Society, I realized that "I am not alone!" but also that what I am experiencing is a healing journey. -- DB

FORGET ME NOT FAMILY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 22, 1995

Remember... The Forget Me Not Family Society's Annual General Meeting will take place at the end of this month between 10 am and 2 pm at the New Westminster Public Library, 716-6th Avenue, New Westminster. The meeting will be followed by a one hour social.

We would like to encourage all members to attend this very important meeting and we would like to remind you there are positions available should you decide to become involved in the Forget Me Not Family Society. The positions include: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and five Directors-At-Large.

Please use your nomination form sent in mid-March, or contact our new office at 10693 - 135A Street, Surrey, British Columbia, V3T 4E3, PH: (604) 581-0550.

A BIRTHFATHER'S POINT OF VIEW - THIRTY-THREE LONG YEARS OF SEPARATION HEALED BY REUNION

Nov. 28/61 around 3:15 pm, my daughter was born at the General Hospital in Calgary. A very happy occasion despite what followed. I held Sandra in my arms and looked at that lovely little face, painfully aware that this would be the last time I would ever see her.

Things weren't going well between Sandra's mother and me. We made the difficult decision to place our child for adoption. I remember going home feeling numb, hating myself for what had just happened. And yes, I cried. Before too long I was again able to concentrate on my work. As time passed I began to function like other people even though the feeling of hating myself didn't go away. At that time I thought I was the only one who felt that way.

On her mother's side, Sandra had an older half-sister and half-brother with whom I maintained a close relationship. I consider them to be my son and daughter (they call me Dad) so I did not feel totally left alone. A promise made to her mother never to mention Sandra to anyone kept me from becoming an active searcher. As time went on I worried and wondered about her, but all I could do was hope that she was all right.

I married in 1983 and our relationship was all that I could wish for. In spite of my happiness I always had an empty, unfulfilled feeling which I've identified as the need to know about my daughter.

The phone rang at about 10:30 am on Oct. 12/94. Although my wife usually answers the phone, this time for reasons I can't explain, I made a dash for it. My son said, "Dad, I don't know how to say this, but I might as well spit it out. There is a cute blonde woman here who claims to be my half-sister. She also claims that you are her father. Can this be true?"

My answer was a resounding "YES!" A little later I heard her voice for the first time, "Hi, this is Patti." No music has ever sounded more beautiful than those first words. More phone calls followed and we decided to meet three days later. Her half-sister, who lives next door to us, was immediately informed and was also very excited. We could hardly wait to meet Patti.

After what seemed to be an eternity, the reunion took place. No words can describe the feelings and emotions we experienced with our first embrace. We stood at the doorstep holding each other after 33 long years of separation. The words my daughter spoke, "I have always loved you," made me realize that everything was going to be all right. The empty, unfulfilled feeling in my heart ebbed away and a great feeling of joy and gratitude took its place. With Patti came her husband and their four very beautiful children: my three granddaughters and my grandson. We spent three unforgettable days together. Patti's husband soon found his way into my heart. He is a wonderful husband and father. I am sure proud of my family.

Later Patti told me her story. She had started searching for me and her birthmother two and a half years earlier by contacting Parent Finders - Edmonton.

Patti was very keen to know all about her roots and we pieced things together. We even went overseas for a week together with her half-sister to meet her two uncles and five aunts.

I met Patti's adoptive parents who were just as happy to meet me as I was to meet them. They spoke lovingly about Patti and I knew that she had been fortunate to be placed with them. After hugs, I told them how thankful I was.

My wonderful wife was with me all the way and shares in our happiness. The future has never looked more promising. Thank you Parent Finders!

by Peter Hofland, Birthfather (reprinted with permission)

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE A Benefit for Lee Crawford

Lee, an adoptee, is in private practice in Vancouver and specializes in Post Adoption Counseling. She designed and implemented a Post Adoption Counseling Program at North Shore Family Services, is an active member of the BC Adoption Networking Meeting, writes and publishes articles on adoption, and is currently writing a children's book. She most recently gave a workshop at the 3rd Annual Post Reunion Conference and spoke very candidly about her battle with cancer. We are saddened to inform you that Lee has been diagnosed with a reoccurrence of cancer.

During the next few months, we would like to see Lee concentrate on her physical & emotional well being; therefore, Forget Me Not Family Society is pleased to present this benefit. We hope to see you at the Dance & if you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please forward it to the FMNFS's office.

When: **Friday, June 16, 1995**
Where: Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 12 midnight
Cost: \$15 per person (includes music & snacks)
There will be beer and wine for sale.

!! Tickets for this event are limited so purchase them early !!

For more information & tickets, contact one of the following:

Cecelia Reekie - 530-9982
Ginny Paulsen - 875-8720
Bonnie Milne - 526-7330

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MILNE, Bonnie - is pleased to announce her reunion with her daughter Jennifer, born November 16, 1968 in Montreal. Jennifer currently lives in Richmond, Virginia & hopes to visit the West Coast soon. Many thanks to Parent Finders and Cecelia Reekie for their assistance.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS/IDEAS

Forget Me Not Family Society is looking for proposals for the 4th Annual Conference on Mar 2 & 3/96. If you have ideas, or topics you would like to see discussed at the conference, please forward them to Cecelia Reekie at 530-9982.

POETRY

HOW DO YOU SAY GOODBYE

How do you say goodbye
to your baby and try not to cry

How do you say goodbye
when your heart's about to die

How do you tell them then
that you may never see them again

How do you tell them you loved them so
and how much it hurt to let them go

How do you know they'll ever understand
and for your decision not reprimand

How will they know that you feel
this big hole in your heart that'll never heal

How do you say goodbye
to your baby and try not to cry

Do you hold them in your arms so very tight
and gaze upon that little face throughout the
night

Do you whisper in their ear
telling them they have nothing to fear

That what you're doing for them is best
even tho' your mind may never be at rest

Do you hug, kiss, and hold them to your heart
knowing that at any moment you'll be forever
apart

Will they ever remember your scent, your touch
and how those tiny little fingers your hand
would clutch

With these empty arms how can I say goodbye
I wasn't even allowed to try!!

So... I cry

— Monica M. Buntin
December 1993

A TIME TO HEAL

REGISTRATION IN -
ANTICIPATION BEGINS
MIX OF EMOTIONS
WHERE DO I BEGIN
I'VE BEEN BEFORE
KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT
ON A ROLLER COASTER RIDE
WILL THE HURT EVER END
HAPPINESS, SADNESS
& CONFUSION IN MIND
BONDING WITH OTHERS
GIVES ME A WARMTH INSIDE
TOGETHER FOR TWO DAYS
WE CAN SHOW OUR TEARS
TALK OF DREAMS AND OF FEARS
AT DAYS END
WHEN ALL IS SAID
STORIES OF HOPE
AND OF SADNESS
FRIENDS AND UNDERSTANDING
WE HAVE WON.

—Arlene J. Pocock
26 February 95
"adoptee"

ATTITUDE - Keep your face to the
sunshine and you cannot see the
shadows.

RISK - You cannot discover new
oceans unless you have the courage
to lose sight of the shore.

EFFORT - Some people dream of
worthy accomplishments, while
others stay awake and do them.

FEEDBACK ... FROM CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

"This is my second year of attending and the conference has made lots of improvements!"

"Hotel was in a good central location. Room in the hotel was nice with a great view!"

"As an adoptive mother of a reunited adoptee I congratulate you all who are doing so much to help our children regain their identity and their self-esteem."

"Especially like the book room - excellent resources available."

"A great networking opportunity."

"Opportunity for interaction with others of various circumstances."

"...easy to get to. Reasonable parking..."

"I finally feel like the things I've felt and done are ok - I'm ok."

"Very powerful two days."

"Too much noise from other nearby workshops."

"Thank you for showing me the family I've always searched for - people like me."

"Hopefully you will be able to keep the location Downtown Vancouver."

"Preferred Surrey [last year's conference location], but at least with the weekend the traffic wasn't too bad."

"Excellent highly organized down to the last detail..."

"I am also an adoptive mother who wants to be ready and supportive when my daughter completes her search. I learned a lot from this conference in this regard."

"Seemed to be much better balance this year - last year was too emotional. This conference was very healing and upbeat for me."

"Thank you to all of you for a tremendously successful conference and for picking up the ball and carrying on the tradition of a yearly conference even though some of the original organizers have resigned."

"Congratulations to those who worked so hard to make this conference a success!"

THANK YOU...

Our recent conference, "A Time to Heal" went off with great success this past February, and the Forget Me Not Family Society would like to express our gratitude for everyone's participation in the overwhelming success of the conference.

The conference could not have been a success without the devotion of the Conference Organizers and the hard-working volunteers. Our sincere thanks to all of you who worked so hard.

Cecelia Reekie, Nancy Kato, Bonnie Milne, Ginny Paulsen, Catherine Moore - thank you so much for your wonderful organization and best wishes to you all.

To all of the guest speakers and workshop facilitators, we could not have done it without you! The workshops were very well done and we hope that your weekend was insightful to you all as well. Thank you for your participation in "A Time to Heal". A special thank you also goes out to the volunteers from UBC School of Counselling Psychology for their services.

A special thanks to the Honourable Joy McPhail, Minister of Social Services, who was in attendance at the conference on Sunday and provided a question and answer period regarding the status of the adoption legislation at this time. We look forward to changes and to the outcome of the Ministry's discussions in late April or early May.

With over 230 people in attendance over the conference weekend, the Sheraton Landmark was buzzing with activity, as was Robson Street, and we would like to thank the staff of the Sheraton for their assistance and service throughout, as well as to the merchants and food outlets who extended discounts to our attendees for food and drink.

To all of the 1995 Conference attendees, thank you for joining "A Time to Heal" and for coming out in support of the Forget Me Not Family Society. Your participation and involvement is so greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year for our 4th Annual Post Adoption Conference.

- THE FORGET ME NOT FAMILY SOCIETY

AUDIO CASSETTES ORDER FORM

Professionally recorded at the

Forget Me Not Family Society

"A Time To Heal" 3rd Post-Adoption Conference

The following audio cassettes of conference workshops are available from the Society. To order, please photocopy this page and indicate your choice of tape(s) at \$6 each (includes GST & Shipping). Unfortunately, because of workshop interaction, some tapes are not available for sale.

Please make cheques payable to: Forget Me Not Family Society, and mail to:

Forget Me Not Family Society,
10693 - 135A Street
Surrey, B.C.

- ☐ Opening Ceremonies
- ☐ Healing Through Grief and Loss in Adoption - Lee Crawford
- ☐ Healing Adoptive Parents - Nancy Verrier
- ☐ Victims No More: A Guide to Adoptee Healing - Nancy Verrier
- ☐ The Maternity Home Experience - Carol Schaefer
- ☐ Empathy and Respect: Healing Through Communication - Lisa Dunlop-Beldam
- ☐ Self Esteem in the Adoption Triad - Alisia Dunlop
- ☐ My Story: A Time for Sharing, Healing and Moving On - Ted Myers
- ☐ Birthmother Trauma and Counseling - Kathy Lewis
- ☐ Healing, Learning and Moving Toward a Different Kind of Adoption - Michaela-Sue Goldblatt
- ☐ Secret Lives: The Unspoken Truths About Adoption - Lorna Millard
- ☐ Personal Wellness for Birthparents: Coming Out and Looking Ahead - Julie Briesse
- ☐ Circles Within Circles - Lorne and Ann Welwood
- ☐ A Successful Reunion Story - Catherine Moore, Alisia Dunlop and David Summers
- ☐ Closing Ceremonies

Tapes from the 1994 Conference are also still available. Please contact our office for more information.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SELECTIONS: _____ X \$6.00 each \$ _____

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY/PROV: _____ CODE: _____

A Reunification with one's Roots by Cecelia Reekie

I was placed into my adoptive home at the age of six weeks in 1963; I had loving parents and supportive siblings. When I was adopted, my adoptive father was a United Church Minister in Port Simpson, a small Indian Community in Northern B.C. My parents were very close to a couple there who I and my siblings (birth-children) grew up calling Aunt Louise and Uncle Murray. Even after leaving Port Simpson in 1965, we kept in touch with Louise and Murray and their Children.

I always knew one day I would search out my biological families and I knew my family would support my search and do everything they could to help me. I decided, in 1988, to begin my search when my sister-in-law, who is also adopted, phoned and told me that she had registered with Parent Finders. Later that day, I called Parent Finders. At the time, I was thinking that I might have a year or so to get emotionally prepared for a reunion. While I was talking to Parent Finders during my first phone call, they asked me some basic questions about my birthmother and birthfather. They then said they would send me a registration form to fill out and send back to them. To my dismay and surprise, I got a call from Parent Finders three days later saying they had just talked to my birthmother. They gave me her phone number and told me to call her in an hour. They also told me not to contact my sister-in-law because they had found her birthmother also and would be calling her soon. I was very relieved to know someone else who would hopefully be going through the many different emotions that I would surely be going through. I then realized that both my in-law's family and my family's structure was about to change forever. I was glad to know that I was not the only one who would be meeting my biological family in the near future. After waiting anxiously for an hour, I called my birthmother. I felt so strange. I really had no idea what I was going to say to her or what she would say to me.

We made arrangements for myself, my husband, Dave, and David Jr. to go over to her house that night. I phoned my adoptive parents to tell them the reunion was happening that night. I think they were as shocked as I was at how quickly it all came together. I was terrified on the drive to my birthmother's house; it was the longest drive from Langley to Delta I had ever experienced. When I knocked on the door, a lady answered; I looked at her and I really didn't see any similarities between us. The next thought I had was that Parent Finders had made a mistake and this was not my birthmother. As we got talking and sharing information, I slowly realized that she was the one I had been searching for.

That night she shared with my family her story; the story of a 15-year-old girl who become pregnant and how her father had decided that I would be given up for adoption. She talked about how she searched for me, a search she had started 11 years earlier, well before I was of legal age. I knew that if she had contacted me when I was 19, I would have probably denied contact; there were just too many things happening at

that time in my life. This was a dream come true for her and I am sure that she sometimes wondered if this day would ever come. I have worked hard on our relationship and I feel that we grow closer as time goes by. We keep in touch with each other and see each other on a regular basis.

During that first meeting, I asked about my biological father and she gave me his name and explained his relationship to me. When I got home that night, I phoned my adoptive parents to tell them about my meeting. They were very happy for me and were glad that things went well. While I was talking to my parents, I said that my biological father was Hereditary Chief from the Village of Kitamaat. To my great surprise, my mom said that she recognized that name and said she would make a call and get back to me. An hour later, mom phoned back to say that she had just talked to Aunt Louise and had discovered that my biological father was Louise's brother and that he would be willing to have a reunion with me. My head was spinning! I was not quite sure what to make of this wonderful situation; thank God for the wonderful support of family and friends.

Within a month and a half I had reunited with both my biological parents; it was wonderful, scary, sad and my emotions snowballed one after the other. Six years later, I have good relationships with everyone, although there were times where I find it very difficult. I had to let go of all the fantasies I had built up about my birthfamilies and realize that they are just regular people like you and me. All my parents have respect for each other and I am very thankful that they have built their own relationships with each other.

On Dec. 8/94, I had an opportunity to go to Kitamaat with my adoptive father for a feast. To my great surprise they had also planned to introduce me to the people of Kitamaat for the first time. My birthfather and my adoptive father were asked by Aunt Louise to bring me up to the front of the hall (what a special moment that was). My aunt proceeded to tell my story and how I had wanted to rediscover my roots. She told me that I was receiving my Indian Name (New-Yam-Dzeets Aik-Sto-Kwia) and that I was going to go to the Eagle Clan. She then had her daughter Susan take off my aunt's button blanket and Susan placed the blanket on me. It was a wonderful evening and at the close, I got up to dance (my first time trying to traditionally dance; I think I did okay) with my birthfather, Aunt Louise and my adoptive father. It really was a memory that I will cherish forever.

I have been able to learn about my culture(s) and realize how every important they are to me. I recently received a poster and on the poster it says: *"Our Children-Our Future. Unless a child learns about the forces which shaped him; the history of his people, their values and customs, and their language, he will never really know himself or his potential as a human being"* and I really believe this is true and it is something that all adoptees lose in the closed adoption system. Maybe we should listen to these words and realize how important our history is to everyone. To deny our histories is to destroy our souls.

MEDIAFILE

ARTICLES, MOVIES, DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT ADOPTION OR ADOPTION-RELATED MATTERS

* *A Journey of the Heart* - Adult Adoptees press governments to open their birth records was title to Maclean's magazine's (Nov 28/94) recent story looking into the life of our very own Cecelia Reekie, President of the Forget Me Not Family Society. The story, covering two full pages portrayed a touching photo of Cecelia, her adoptive mother and her birthmother, with whom she has been reunited. The article maps Cecelia's search for her roots, which began at the age of 24, soon after the birth of her first child.

Three days after giving all her information to Parent Finders, a match was made and the agency handed Cecelia her mother's name and phone number. "A spot in my heart was always empty," said Marguerite Wood, Cecelia's birth mother, after 11 years of her own searching for her relinquished daughter. Cecelia is quoted as saying, "I love my adoptive parents, but they can't give me my own history.", which I believe speaks for an extreme majority of the adoptees out there.

The article talks about Adoption legislation and the need for change, with input from other members of the adoption circle. University of Guelph psychology professor Michael Sobol, Canada's leading expert on adoption and the co-author of a recent national study, had this to say:

"When you study adoption, you learn that the things that make an adoptive family work are the very same things that make any other family work: open communications, acknowledgment of differences and concern about personal identity."

* *Reform attacks gays' access to adoption* headed a February 17th article by Stuart Hunter in The Province, which addressed the views of the Reform Party towards adoption.

"Men and women produce children and they're the ones who should raise adopted infants"

- Reform MLA Richard Neufeld

Reform is fuming over the recent policy changes to B.C.'s Adoption Act which will allow singles, including homosexuals, the same adoption rights as couples, including the right to adopt a healthy child under two years of age. The old policy allowed singles to adopt only children with special needs. The changes will also allow married couples with more than one child to adopt kids.

* *Longing ends for a mother and her daughter* was the heading of an article in The Vancouver Province (January 6) written by Greg Middleton, after mother Beverly Franklin and her daughter Karen Ferguson were reunited in Nanaimo after 33 years. At birth, in 1961, Karen was taken from Franklin simply because she was an unwed teenage mother and a ward of the court in Calgary, Alberta. Ferguson went through 28 foster homes in the first 18 months of her life, but was eventually adopted by a large Calgary family with many other adopted children. Their reunion was facilitated by TRIAD in December of 1994.

* *Yearning for roots grows with season* was the heading of Bob Stall's Province article on November 29th, 1994, and appropriate it was. This was a story of one woman, Hazel Walmsley, born in Kelowna on October 28, 1947, and raised by a foster family. Hazel found her mother, who was reluctant to meet her daughter, and when they were finally reunited, Hazel's birth mother was unwilling to provide any information about her birth, her father or her possible twin sister. Hazel's plea was to find the missing pieces in her life.

* *Lost brother could be last hope for man.* On December 30th, 1994, Glen Schaefer reported this story in The Province about a family's plea for finding Joseph Patrick McArthur, born September 20, 1961. The family has found past acquaintances, but Joseph Patrick has yet to be found. Joseph Patrick was placed for adoption, but his brother Wayne McArthur was not, and is now fighting for his life in a battle with leukemia. His only hope is a bone marrow transplant and the family hopes that Joseph Patrick will be found and tested for a possible match. The family also wants him to know that he has a family and a home at the Kisby Assiniboine reserve, and that they all look forward to being reunited.

* *Adoption Info On-Line* If you have a modem on your computer and wish to log in to Adoption Helper Magazine, dealing with all aspects of adoptions in Canada and around the world, you can call (via computer modem), (416) 780-2010 and then log in as "guest". Then type in "go adopt" to get to the adoption main menu.

For Internet access, telnet to: freenet.toronto.on.ca

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support Groups For birthmothers, adoptees, and adoptive parents

Cloverdale

The second Wednesday of each month, a support group meets at Cloverdale Public Library, 5642 - 176A Street. For more information contact Cecelia Reekie at 530-9982.

New Westminster

The second Tuesday of each month, a support group meets at New Westminster Public Library, 716 - 6th Avenue, from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information contact Nancy Kato at 525-8383.

North Vancouver

The third Wednesday of each month, a support group meets at a site on Lower Lonsdale. For more information, contact Catherine Moore at 929-6309.

****NEW** Vancouver **NEW****

We are pleased to announce a new support group in the Vancouver area scheduled to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Ginny Paulsen at 875-8720. The first meeting is scheduled for March 28, 1995.

Quesnel

The first Tuesday of each month, a support group meets at the Community Services Building. Contact Sharon Stevens at 992-9087 in Quesnel.

MOHAWK FUND RAISING PROGRAM

You may have noticed a Mohawk Oil Credit Card Application form in your envelope received at the recent 3rd Annual Post Adoption Conference, Feb. 25-26, 1995. Mohawk has a special program, through its credit card system that will assist our non-profit organization to raise funds over and above what we now raise.

The Society encourages its members and families and supporters to apply for special Mohawk Credit Cards. Up to 3% of credit purchases will go towards the non-profit society of your choice - and will go to the Forget Me Not Family Society if you specify it on your application for a card.

Please support your charity with every fill up...

REUNION REGISTRY UPDATE

By Claudia O'Brien

Reunion Registry Statistics From Oct 2/91 to Dec 31/94.

Total Applications Received	6925
Total Database*	9200
Searches Completed	3295
Reunions Completed	2480
<i>Other outcomes of active searches:</i>	
Subject of search deceased	233
Subject of search refused contact	346
<i>Other Services:</i>	
Matches on the passive database	371
Non-identifying information reports	1687

* Includes all files opened since Oct/92 and files transferred from the former Passive Registry for which no new applications have been received.

LEAN ON ME Telephone Support List

Reunited Birthmothers:

Monica Bunton (403) 327-7525
Ethel Drake - Kamloops (604) 374-8042
Christine Gurin (604) 985-2096
Nicole Quittenton (604) 731-0605
Connie Short (604) 534-9456
Betty Coutts
(100 Mile House) (604) 395-4969

Searching Birthmothers:

Mary Reynolds (604) 534-2851
Lois Tworowski
(Regina, Sask.) (306) 522-2756

Reunited Adoptees:

Cecelia Reekie (604) 530-9982
E-Mail: cansoft@haven.uniserve.com
Ginny Paulsen (604) 875-8720
Sharon Stevens - Quesnel (604) 992-9087
E-Mail: sstevens@family.island.net
Sue Travis (604) 534-2477

Reunited with Siblings:

Janis Wegrich (604) 856-2215
(birthparents deceased)

Denied Reunion Adoptees:

Liz Goadby (604) 574-7223

Adoptive Parent of Reunited Adoptee:

Sue McBeatch (604) 538-8301

Adoptive Parent:

Elsa Weinstein (604) 876-4543

Interested Professionals:

Judy Archer (604) 988-5281
North Shore Family Services
Michaela-Sue Goldblatt (604) 921-6425

Send your name and telephone number if you wish to be included on the LEAN ON ME Telephone Support List. Out of town numbers are always welcome.

Mail Order

The following books and products are available from the Society. Please make cheques payable to **Forget Me Not Family Society** and mail to Forget Me Not Family Society, 10693 - 135A St. Surrey, B.C., V3T 4E3 CANADA. All prices include GST.

The Adoption Triangle by Arthur Sorosky, Reuben Pannor, & Annette Baran. Sealed or open records, how they affect all members of the adoption circle. \$14.00 plus shipping

Adoption Reunions by Michelle McColm. This book is the most comprehensive reunion guide to date. A sensitive and compassionate book about the reunion process for adoptees, birth parents and adoptive families. This book deals with Canadian laws and practices. \$18.50 plus shipping.

Journey of the Adopted Self - A Quest for Wholeness by B.J. Lifton. A brilliant contribution to the work of healing in adoption. Valid for all members of the adoption circle and professionals. Hardcover. \$30.50 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Lost & Found - The Adoption Experience by B.J. Lifton is a sensitive literary journey through the emotional labyrinth of the adoption experience. Written for adoptees, adoptive families and birth parents. \$18.00 plus shipping.

The Other Mother by Carol Schaefer. A wonderful book written with poignancy, tenderness, depth and honesty. A remarkable portrayal of what it is really like to relinquish a child for adoption. \$18.50 plus shipping.

Finding Family by Rick Ouston. Very compelling for adoption circle members. A great search & reunion book which Rick has dedicated to All The Secret Mothers. \$16.00 plus shipping.

Other than B.J. Lifton's hardcover, shipping charges are \$2.50 for the first book and \$.75 for each additional book.

T-SHIRTS! GET YOURS NOW!



Society T-Shirts with the Forget Me Not Family Society Logo screened on the front are available in top quality 100% cotton. Please state size M/L/XL. Colour: white only (logo is black). \$14.95 ea. + \$1.50 Shipping.

Please send letters to the editor, reunion stories, news and information on community events to: Adoption Circles, c/o Forget Me Not Family Society, 10693 - 135A St. Surrey, B.C., V3T4E3 CANADA. The Forget Me Not Family Society reserves the right to edit all material submitted on the basis of space, relevance and suitability. Please note that material published in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Forget Me Not Family Society or its Editors.