



**Parent Finders of Canada**  
and  
**Parent Finders Ottawa**

Volume 29, Number 2  
May 2011

Reuniting families separated by adoption

**Spring – Season of Rebirth and Reunions**

In the spring of the year, my thoughts turn to reunion. I met my son for the first time as an adult in the beautiful surroundings of the Van Dusen Botanical Gardens in Vancouver. It was the end of April and we wandered through the gardens beneath the cherry blossoms.

Since that spring day 9 years ago, I have developed a positive and caring relationship with my son. The piece of my life that was missing for 33 years is back in place. I have faced the pain of his loss and allowed myself to grieve. I have shared and celebrated the joy that was denied me when he was born. Now I can tell the world that I have a son! That is part of the power of reunion.

I believe that for those of us separated by adoption, finding out the truth and reconnecting with lost family members, if possible, is the pathway to healing. Reunion gives us the opportunity to reconnect with the injustices of the past and to reprocess what happened. I learned that I was “more sinned against than sinning”. I could revisit the shame and let go of the guilt. **Spring is a time of growth and that is the potential of reunion – an opportunity to grow, to face the past, to process the feelings, and come out on the other side into the light.**

Unfortunately, some mothers have not recovered from the trauma of their loss and are sadly not receptive to reunion. This was brought to light very publicly earlier this year when **Oprah Winfrey** announced that she has a half-sister. Oprah’s mother Vernita had a daughter in 1963 but gave her up and kept it secret all these years. In videos of the two sisters and their mother together, Vernita’s discomfort is painfully visible. She had not wanted this reunion to happen.

“She is still of the same mindset and is still carrying the shame that would have been put upon her in 1963, and therefore, she hasn’t been able to release herself to fully embrace [Patricia] and embrace this miracle that has really happened in our family. You can let the shame go”, Oprah said speaking directly to the camera. “There are millions of people all over this country who are just like you, who have given up their children because they knew at the time that they could not provide the best for them.” This was very perceptive of Oprah.

Cont. on p. 2.....

**Annual General Meeting on May 12, 2011**

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 7 p.m. Our meetings are held at **Southminster United Church**, 7 Galt Street in Ottawa. The church is on the west side of the Bank Street Bridge just south of Lansdowne Park. Turn on Alymer and then right on Galt Street where parking is available. Enter by the rear door and go upstairs to the second floor. Hope to see you there!

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## Season of Rebirth and Reunions (cont. from page 1)

These are moving and meaningful words to birthmothers. We all know that there are many mothers out there who are still in the closet. They were so traumatized by the loss of their babies and the way they were marginalized and shamed that they haven't told anyone and they want to keep it that way.

**Monica Byrne** of Parent Finders and **Karen Lynn** of the Canadian Council of Natural Mothers (CCNM) and ASK recently presented a workshop on just this topic. From the point of view of two reunited mothers, they explored the impact of adoption loss on surrendering mothers and how it affects a woman's ability to reunite with her child and be part of a successful reunion. The handout from the workshop is reprinted on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

*Jennifer Charles*

Editor, PF News

## 2010 Annual Report – Parent Finders Ottawa

Every year the Board of Directors of Parent Finders Ottawa establishes key organizational goals and objectives in order to meet the needs of our members. We estimate and project our coming year's income and expenses and then develop our goals and objectives to fit our potential assets. We estimate our income and expenses and try to forecast how PF Ottawa will grow or change in the coming year depending on the environmental factors that may affect the organization.

### Operations/Budget

Memberships and donations are down slightly from last year, which has resulted in a small deficit. The total number of fully paid new and renewing members for 2010 was 41. (It should be noted that this number does not reflect the many hundreds of members who have not renewed their annual membership, but continue to be helped by us.)

### Adoption Legislation

The new Ontario legislation giving people access to birth and adoptive names has resulted in a great many calls and e-mails to Parent Finders. Since June 2009 when the new law came into effect, approximately 6500 Disclosure Vetoes have been filed with the government. This represents less than 1% of the total number of adoptees and birth parents who could potentially request their information.

To date, approximately 12,500 people have submitted requests for their identifying information. According to the Office of the Receiver General in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the number of No-Contact Vetoes has dwindled to an almost negligible amount, while applications for birth and amended information continue to be in the low hundreds per month.

### Office Update

Most phone inquiries are from people who have received "identifying" information about the adoption involved and want to know what to do next. Phone inquiries average about 8 per week, while e-mails number about 10 a month. We are very grateful to **Tracy Young** who has re-designed our very large and antiquated database and made it much easier to use.

### Website Update – [www.parentfindersottawa.ca](http://www.parentfindersottawa.ca)

The website is a work in progress with downloadable information and application forms, back issues of our newsletter and search tips. A 'blog' is kept up to date with current affairs and links to government forms. We hope to make our website even more user-friendly in the coming year.

## 2010 Annual Report (Continued)

### Publicity

Public service announcements and messages to the community Bulletin Boards were sent out to advertise our meetings. We continue to be listed in various Social Service organization's resource lists. The publicity surrounding Bill 12 and the resulting reunion stories in the media generate many requests for live radio and TV interviews. The recent reunion of Oprah and her sister is a case in point!

### Activities

- **Tim Halderson** was appointed Acting Vice President to the Board of Directors in the fall of 2010 and we are currently seeking a new Communications Officer.
- Our Registrar **Monica Byrne** attended the Annual Conference of the American Adoption Congress (ACC) in Sacramento, California in April 2010. She gave a workshop with **Michael Grand** called "Reunion is Not Re-connection".
- Two members of the Board of Directors, **Jennifer Charles** and **Monica Byrne**, attended the Adoption Crossroads Conference in New York City in September 2010. The new information they have acquired helps them to better respond to inquiries and have more to share with readers of the newsletter. They were also able to meet and confer with those from other countries who are involved in the adoption reform movement.
- Our newsletter continues to be published 3 times a year to coincide with our public meetings. It is the longest running publication in the Canadian adoption world. We thank all our Editors for their wonderful work and our members and others who contribute articles, poetry, and book and movie reviews. Your contributions are always welcome. Please send them directly to Jennifer Charles at [milkweedcottage@yahoo.ca](mailto:milkweedcottage@yahoo.ca).

### Our Goals for 2011

**Organizational** - The position of Communications Officer on the Board of Directors must be filled as soon as possible.

**Financial** - We need to increase the number of memberships to meet projected income and expenditures. This means developing a higher profile for the organization in order to attract more donations. We also need to convince our members of the importance of renewing their memberships every year as we have hundreds of members who have not done so. As a result, we are running at a deficit.

**Support to Members** - We must meet the increased demand for information about the new adoption legislation (Bill 12) in Ontario and assist in search requests and reunions as a result of new information released through the legislation. This includes recruiting and training more volunteer "search assistants" to help our out-of-town members with their research needs.

**Publicity** - We need to revise our information brochure and design a new Parent Finders logo. It is also crucial that we set up a PF Facebook page to encourage more memberships. And finally, we need to boost our local and national profile.

*Patricia McCarron*

**President**

**Parent Finders of Ottawa**

## Secret Daughter

by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

William Morrow Publishers, Paperback, 2010, 346 p.

**M**y sister-in-law suggested I read *Secret Daughter*, knowing that I reunited with my “secret” daughter two and a half years ago. I just finished the book and am wondering how to respond to her inevitable question “How did you like the book?” I read a lot of books and never have trouble expressing my opinion about them but this one has me stumped.

How *did* I like this book? I felt the book reflected the sadness, loss and ongoing sorrow of adoption from many sides. The child is Indian, her adoptive father is Indian and her adoptive mother is American. They take her to America immediately and she doesn’t return to India for 20 years. She says she is returning to write an article about children growing up in poverty in Mumbai’s slums but the real reason for her return is to discover more about herself and ultimately, her natural parents.

The book follows the natural and adoptive parents throughout the girl’s life. The natural mother never forgets, never stops thinking about her daughter, never stops wondering. The daughter thinks about her natural mother from a young age and even goes so far as to write to her, letting her know how she’s doing. When asked to mail the first letter, the adoptive father has to explain to the child that he doesn’t know how to reach his daughter’s natural mother. How ridiculous must that sound to a child? The adoptive father is a successful physician who seems to gain much of his personal meaning from his work, which may be the reason he doesn’t seem threatened by the fact that his daughter becomes interested in knowing where and who she comes from.

The adoptive mother, on the other hand, scaled back her medical practice to be more available to her child but never really became secure in her role as the child’s mother. She never really accepted that her infertility meant that she wouldn’t have her own child, that adopting a child didn’t make her “hers”. Nevertheless, she loves the child and seems more willing than the adoptive father to accept that the girl’s gifts and talents are different but equally important.

This novel left me feeling sad – sad for the natural mother, for the daughter and surprisingly, sad for the adoptive mother. Adoption means everyone loses. You never forget your child and you can raise another child but genetics dictate that she will always be connected to her natural family whether she chooses to reignite that bond or not. So, did I like the book? I’d have to say no – it is just too sad for me to say that I liked it.

Hilary  
Parent Finders Member

### Secret Daughter Disappoints and Won't Go Away (Editor's humble opinion)

I must admit that I was relieved when I read Hillary's review (above) of the longtime bestseller *Secret Daughter*. I have watched with growing disappointment as this book leapt onto the bestseller list and has remained close to the top for more than a year now. My reason for this is that I feel that the book lacks the depth of emotion required when dealing with the lifelong pain and loss of adoption. This may be because the author has no personal experience of adoption, but was inspired by a summer working as a volunteer at an orphanage in India. There is a disturbing lack of resolution in the character's emotional lives, particularly the adopted daughter and her long-suffering natural mother.

The book also reinforces some deeply held and unquestioned misconceptions about adoption. As in the movie *Juno*, in her conclusion the author trots out the same old “solutions”, guaranteed to satisfy no one and in no way reflecting real life, which is so well depicted in the book's earlier pages. For whom, one may ask, is this book written?

Jennifer Charles

## **The Many Faces of Adoption**

### **American Adoption Congress (AAC) Conference in Orlando, Florida**

I have been attending American Adoption Congress (AAC) conferences for the past 22 years - travelling back and forth across the U.S. always in the hope of sightseeing in a new city and always, inevitably, spending 95% of the time in the hotel attending workshops. This year was no exception!

The 2011 annual gathering took place in Orlando, Florida from April 13 to 17. On offer were dozens of workshops on every aspect of the post-adoption experience, political and legislative discussion, creative and artistic viewpoints, films, celebrities, music and much more. Besides attending 3 or 4 workshops a day, I collaborated with **Michael Grand**, Professor of Psychology at the University of Guelph, on a workshop entitled "The Ripple Effect of Reunion". I also presented a workshop with **Karen Lynn**, founder of both the Canadian Council of Natural Mothers (CCNM) and ASK our PF search and support affiliate in Toronto, on the impact of adoption loss on birthmothers. Both workshops were very well received. The handout for the latter workshop is reprinted on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

**Candy Finnegan** of TV's hit reality show *Intervention* presented an excellent workshop on adoptees and addiction. An adoptee herself, she understands how many adoptees struggle with addiction as they try to "fill the hole" left by their adoption losses. **Patti Hawn**, sister of **Goldie Hawn**, was another interesting speaker. She is a birthmother who has just written a book *Good Girls Don't*. Several authors including **Michael Grand** signed new books. Dr. Grand's new book *The Adoption Constellation* will be reviewed in the October newsletter. And **Mary Anne Alton**'s documentary *The 40 Year Secret* was a smash hit!

Overall the conference was a great success and attendance by Canadians was the highest I have seen in years. With only 9 out of 50 states with openness like we have here in Canada, it is very clear that our American friends and colleagues can learn a lot from our legislative efforts, while we can always learn lots about search and reunion from them. **Every year when I return from the AAC conference, I feel sad that more of our Parent Finders members don't attend these conferences, especially considering how the subject of adoption so fills their lives and thoughts!** Next year's AAC conference is in Denver, Colorado. Why not think about planning a small vacation around it - you will **never** regret it. I promise!

*Monica Byrne*  
Registrar

### **My First Adoption Conference**

I recently attended the annual Conference of the American Adoption Congress in Orlando, Florida. It was an excellent conference with numerous presentations, seminars, and informal events, all on issues that are relevant to adoption.

I felt that the best session was the "Ripple Effect of Reunions" which was co-hosted by **Professor Michael Grand** of the University of Guelph and PF Ottawa/Canada's **Monica Byrne**. Other seminars that I found to be very informative were about sibling reunions; an intriguing support group style discussion of "I Found the Truth, So Where's the Freedom?", a presentation that focused on issues that adoptees face as they grow older, and an encouraging presentation by a reunited adoptee from the UK where birth records were opened 36 years ago with no significant problems since.

Not only were the presentations and seminars informative, they were often quite moving, evoking strong emotions in the presenter and the audience as people spoke from their hearts about their personal and professional experience. I recommend strongly that our members consider attending a future Conference of the American Adoption Congress. I am sure you would benefit in your own ways as much as I have.

*Tim Halderson*  
Vice President

## **You Will Get Over It, They Said**

### **Strategies to encourage mothers to reunite**

© **Monica Byrne** and **Karen Lynn** (monicbyrne@magma.ca/ccnm@rogers.com)  
From a presentation at the Conference of the American Adoption Congress (ACC)  
Orlando, Florida on April 14, 2011

#### **Understand Why Some Mothers Refuse Contact**

**Understand the trauma.** In most cases, a surrendering mother is still deeply traumatized by the treatment she received during and after her pregnancy, the deep well of feelings involved in the loss of her child, and the abrupt imposition of a very cruel adult world on a girl child.

**Understand the effects of blame.** When a mother is blamed for surrendering her child – a situation that was usually beyond her control, whether she knows it or not – it is very, very painful. She will retreat. Most of us remember such instances of blame clearly for all our lives.

**Understand that there is a *continuum of mothers*** ranging from those who are aggressively eager to find and reunite with their lost children to those who are fearful of being found and even those who have consciously forgotten their experience.

**Understand coping strategies.** Mothers cope differently with the trauma, but coping is always about self-protection.

- **Some women, like any group of human beings, survive by denial.** If I don't believe that I was damaged when I gave away my child, then I'm not. It's just the past and I have gotten over it. Adoption is always good for children – and their new families were chosen by professionals. My child was given the best, etc. **The past is past.**
- **Some women survive by being 'practical'.** Get on with your life – that's the 'smart' thing to do. If this route is chosen, she will create her own private minefield of denial and feel entitled to do so. **The past is past.**
- **Some women survived by facing the problem directly,** searching for their lost children, identifying the systemic issues, and fighting for change. **The past is present.**

**Understand the shame.** If the shame has been internalized deeply, and if the mother has not had the opportunity to deconstruct it, she may be encasing herself in an impenetrable bunker, deep in her consciousness. Shaming and blaming a mother in the present will confirm her feelings of worthlessness, causing her to become entrenched in her secrecy.

**Understand the sell.** Adoption was sold to all mothers as being “in the best interests of the child”. It is *news* to most surrendering mothers that adoptees have issues about adoption. Ideas about an adoptee's identity and needing to know one's original mother were never suggested to mothers caught in an unplanned pregnancy. Finding out about this increases their burden of shame. The adoption sell was so powerful that institutions – people from all walks of life – accepted it without question.

**You Will Get Over It, They Said** (continued from page 6)

**Understand the adoption industry.** After the Second World War, a market for babies for adoption developed. Social workers honed their professional skills and coercion in many forms became endemic to convince mothers to surrender their babies. The mothers were rarely informed of their own rights. Read books such as *The Stork Market*, by Mirah Riben and *Wake Up Little Susie* and *Pregnancy and Power* by Rickie Solinger.

**Understand the fear.** Some mothers may fear rejection from those who are important in her life now – fear of having to deal with the entire experience and of the possible outcomes. For some it all just feels too hard. Some mothers are afraid to talk about the father, especially if there is more than one possible father and/or there was a rape situation.

**Understand the social amnesia.** Many people have no memory of the *pressure* that was applied to a young woman with an unplanned pregnancy. Imagine being told that you were unfit to be a mother, that you had brought shame on your family, that if you truly loved your child you would give her to more deserving – married – people. Imagine then what it feels like 30 or 40 years later to hear someone say, “I would never give up my child”.

### **Advice to Adopted Adults Trying to Connect With a Reluctant Birthmother**

- ◆ Join a support group of peers.
- ◆ Make your mother feel safe, respect her fears and boundaries, reassure her that you won't reveal her secret.
- ◆ Do not make her feel that she has been stalked.
- ◆ Be very patient. She may just need time. Perhaps the circumstances in her life will change. Big obstacles may move away.
- ◆ Assure her that she does not need to tell the world her story – keep it private if she wishes. Do not “out” her.
- ◆ Try to normalize the experience. Encourage connection with other mothers who have lost children to adoption.
- ◆ Do not criticize her for protecting herself.
- ◆ Remove the shame and blame. Get her to look at her socio-political situation, her lack of options. Unravel the story carefully, building the castle of your reunion.
- ◆ In tough cases when the mother is severely afraid and refuses contact, make infrequent contact on birthdays and holidays if possible. Try to make her comfortable rather than having expectations of her.
- ◆ Avoid involving adoptive family members in your outreach. Invite them into the reunion later, when you feel prepared.
- ◆ Read, read, read books by and about mothers who have lost their children to adoption. Prepare yourself, not only with knowledge about what to expect yourself, but also about how to help your mother. Some recommended books are: *The Girls Who Went Away* by Ann Fessler, *Following the Tambourine Man* by Janet Mason Ellerby, and *Without a Map* by Meredith Hall.

Dear PF...



**“DEAR PF”** answers some frequently asked questions that may come up during search and reunion. Each case is unique, but we can always learn more from each other’s experiences. Maybe our answer to your question will also help someone else.

*Dear PF*

*I am a happily married man of 54. I have 3 children and a baby granddaughter. Last week I was approached by a young adopted woman who says she is my daughter! She says her birthmother gave her my name. I do remember dating her mother for a few months back when I was a student, but the relationship never went anywhere and we drifted apart. I have not seen the woman in more than 30 years. I did not know she was pregnant, although she told the adopted girl that she informed me of the pregnancy way back when. I do not remember this.*

*Now I am faced with so many questions. Why has mother or child waited so long to tell me? Should I tell my wife? I know this will upset her a lot. Should I tell my children? What does this girl want anyway? Should I request proof that she really is my child? Or should I change my phone number and hope she goes away?*

*Wild Oats Returned*

Dear Wild

More and more men of your age are being faced with the results of their youthful indiscretions. In the past, it was common **not** to involve birth fathers in adoption decisions. In fact many mothers did not tell them the truth or if they did, they risked being shamed or abandoned. It was a different time and women were the fall guys, for the most part, in unplanned pregnancies. They left town, they went “to an Aunt’s”, they stayed in anonymous maternity homes, they were often shunned, and the family certainly did not want to spread the word about the upcoming baby. If they continued to see the birth father they often got married quickly in what were called “shotgun marriages”. Most often, fast, discreet adoption plans were made and then it was all over.

But things have changed thank heavens and single motherhood is more accepted by society in general. Women tend to keep their babies rather than give them up for adoption. And so your daughter has found you. “What does she want?” you ask. You would have to ask her, but generally her needs have to do with personal identity and medical history. How your wife reacts depends on the honesty of your relationship with her over the years. Remember, this happened before you married her. Tell her what you told us. And as for your children....well, guess what? After an initial shock reaction, they will probably be pleased to have another sibling. There will be lots of questions and comments but after a while this too will pass!

As for proof of paternity, if you feel you need this, then by all means have a DNA test. Although the test is quite costly (usually between \$600 and \$800), this will settle the matter once and for all. Lastly, it would be unwise to change your number and run away! We believe there are worse things than the truth.

### **The Fate of Adoption Disclosure Register**

It seems as if the Adoption Disclosure Register (ADR) no longer exists. The phone number 416-327-4730 is no longer in service. The ADR has been replaced by The Office of the Custodian of Adoption Information at 880 Bay Street in Toronto. This is **not** a client-accessible office. The matching Registry still exists. All inquiries must be made through ServiceOntario.ca or by phoning 1-800-461-2156.



### Search Alerts

Birth information is published in our newsletter when a new member joins and when their membership is renewed. Please let Parent Finders know if you have changes or new information so we can amend our records. Items marked "X" are repeats or renewals. All others are published for the first time.

### The Searchers

Repeat	Searcher	Birth Name	Birth Date	Birth Place
	Adoptee	John David Saul BECHARD	July 26, 1962	Northwestern Hospital York Township
	Adoptee	Sharon Lynn COLLIER	Nov. 7, 1949	Ottawa, Ontario
X	Birthmother	Melanie Jane MOFFAT	Feb. 6, 1962	Grace Hospital, Toronto
	Adoptee	Lyle HUME or HUMENIUK	May 11, 1937	Toronto, Ontario
	Adoptee	Joseph Patrick Eric PRADY	May 15, 1940	Civic Hospital Ottawa, Ontario
	Fostered adult	Steve DOMPIERRE	Oct. 27, 1975	Sacré Coeur Hospital Gatineau, Quebec
	Birth sister	Mark Andrew & John Anthony KEOUGHAN (twins)	Dec. 14, 1956	Trenton, Ontario
	Adoptee	Elizabeth Mae DYCK	Nov. 11, 1954	General Hospital Vancouver, British Columbia
	Adoptee	Kimberly Ann MASON	April 2, 1976	Civic Hospital Ottawa, Ontario
X	Adoptive mother	Alyssa Kelly MERPAW	June 11, 1995	Hotel Dieu Cornwall, Ontario
	Birthmother	Jennifer Karin PARNELL	Nov. 11, 1967	General Hospital Kingston, Ontario
	Birthmother	Douglas Edward VEENMAN	Apr. 17, 1961	Western Hospital Toronto, Ontario

### Sign ACC's Petition to Support Open Records

Those who oppose giving adopted adults access to their original birth certificates claim that it will harm the birth parents who were promised anonymity. In 1998 to counter this, more than 500 birthmothers in Oregon signed a petition favouring access that became a full page ad in an Oregon newspaper. Many attribute the opening of records in Oregon to this long list of names that changed public opinion regarding the need for access.

In the wake of Oprah's reunion with her sister, the American Adoption Congress (AAC) has created an online petition to be signed by birth parents in support of access for adopted adults to their original birth certificates. This growing list of birth parents in both the U.S. and Canada will demonstrate to legislators in every state and province that birth parents **do** support open records. Please visit the AAC website at [www.americanadoptioncongress.org](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org) to sign the petition. Remember – numbers are the key to success.



## NEWS & NOTES

### Upcoming Meetings

May 12, 2011 (Annual Meeting)

October 13, 2011

January 12, 2012

Meetings are held at

Southminster United Church

7 Galt Street, Ottawa on the west side of  
the Bank Street Bridge just past

Lansdowne Park.

**All are welcome!**

### The Canadian Council of Natural Mothers (CCNM)

*The voice of mothers who have lost their children to  
adoption.*

For many years, unsupported mothers have been losing  
their children to adoption. These mothers have been  
misunderstood, shamed and blamed for this huge loss.  
And we have been silenced.

*No more. Join the CCNM! This is a forum for mothers –  
of all ages – to discuss their experiences with each other,  
freely and without judgment. You will be able to talk  
about your loss, receive support in searching for your lost  
child(ren), and get help in navigating the joys and  
heartaches of reunion.*

**It's free!** For more information and to find out how to  
join, visit our website at [www.ccnm.ca](http://www.ccnm.ca). Read the articles,  
see our library, and join our Facebook page.

### ***B & M BOOKS***

#### **Books on Adoption Loss, Search, and Reunion**

We carry a large assortment of adoption-  
related books specializing in search and  
reunion. For more information call:

Joan at 613-825-1640 or

Monica at 613-730-8305

### **In Memoriam**

Members of the Ottawa Parent Finders  
Board of Directors send a heartfelt message  
of support to fellow board member Beverley  
McKiver and family during this time of  
mourning for the loss of her father.

### **Please renew your membership!**

Parent Finders is run entirely by unpaid volunteers and  
receives no outside funding. Membership fees are our  
only source of funding and are used strictly for operating  
costs. **Please renew your membership if your  
newsletter is stamped 'NOW DUE'.**

### **Wanted: Old City Directories**

Garage Sale time is upon us. Please be a good  
"searcher" and keep your eyes open for old  
City Directories (not phone books) that may  
have made their way to the sales table. We  
will pay whatever they cost you.

### **Birthmother Support Group**

Are you interested in joining a support group for  
birthmothers? We at Parent Finders are organizing  
such a group to start in May or June, 2011. For more  
information, please call Monica at 613-730-8305.

## **Parent Finders of Canada and Parent Finders Ottawa**

### **Reuniting families separated by adoption**

**A** non-profit support group for all members of the adoption community over 18  
years of age. We promote the reunion of family members separated by adoption by providing  
information and support to those who are searching and seeking reunion. Public meetings are held in  
January, May, and October. Our **membership fee is \$45 for 12 months** and includes a  
subscription to our newsletter. A subscription for the newsletter alone is \$12 a year or \$20 for 2 years.  
International memberships are \$75 for 12 months. For more information, call **613-730-8305** (long  
distance calls are returned collect), write to the address on the front page, email us at [pfncr@aol.com](mailto:pfncr@aol.com)  
or visit our website at [www.parentfindersottawa.ca](http://www.parentfindersottawa.ca)