

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

Volume 29, Number 3  
October 2011

Reuniting families separated by adoption

*Come Celebrate Our 35th Anniversary!*

The upcoming meeting in October will be a special one to celebrate the **35th anniversary of Parent Finders Ottawa**. We really do have a lot to celebrate! Our Parent Finders group in Ottawa is **one of the most successful volunteer adoption search and support groups in Canada**. It is certainly the longest running.

Over the years, we have managed to avoid many of the problems that can plague volunteer organizations. The Board of Directors, a compatible group of 3 adoptees and 3 birthmothers, still meets on a regular basis. We still hold public meetings 3 times a year and we are one of the very few groups that still produces a newsletter.

Although our focus is shifting from searching to providing guidance and support, we still help our members to navigate the complex and emotional journey of self-discovery and finding lost family members. We continue to do all this on a shoestring budget. I guess there are some things money just can't buy! **Mark October 13 on your calendar and plan to attend.**

Over the summer, we completed a major cleanup of several thousand files from the past 35 years. Most of our members never come back and tell us when they have had a reunion, whether good or not so good. So we are left with hundreds of "open" files. The object of this lengthy exercise was to find out "what happened?" and update our records accordingly. **Please let us know about the progress of your search and reunion so we can continue to keep our records up to date.**

The result of this cleanup is the long list of reunions and completed searches on pages 7 to 9 of this newsletter. These are just a fraction of all the reconnections we have been part of over the past 35 years. We have accomplished a lot!

This summer, we were very fortunate to have **Katherine Huddleston** working in our office as a student placement. Katherine has been an invaluable asset at this very busy time and we couldn't have done the cleanup without her. **Thank you Katherine and congratulations on the birth of your beautiful son.** You can read Katherine's article on page 4.

**Continued on page 2.....**

*You are invited!*

**35th anniversary of Parent Finders Ottawa**  
Thursday, October 13 at 7 p.m.  
Southminster United Church  
7 Galt Street, Ottawa  
(off Bank Street, just south of Lansdowne Park)  
Light refreshments will be served.

**Board of Directors**

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## **Come Celebrate Our 35th Anniversary** (cont. from page 1)

We also formally **welcome Tim Halderson to the Board as our new Vice-President**. Tim has volunteered in several Board positions and was finally confirmed in our May Annual General Meeting. Thank you Tim for being so firmly “on-board”! We are now looking for a **Communications Director** to round out our Board.

**Our new Facebook page**, “Parent Finders Ottawa”, has now been launched. If you are on Facebook, please have a look at the page, give us a “thumbs up” and help to spread the word! Write on our Wall and tell us how you think we’re doing. If you have a reunion picture to share, forward it to us and we’ll include it among our photos. We have also done more work on our **Website**, although it is still a work-in-progress. If you are a whiz at Website construction, we would be grateful for any help or suggestions for improvement. We can be found at [www.parentfindersottawa.ca](http://www.parentfindersottawa.ca).

And finally, there will be an **election in Ontario** in November. Members of Parliament (and those trying to get their jobs) are sensitive to issues raised by potential voters. While the new adoption legislation – Bill 12 – has been gratefully received by thousands of adoptees and their birth parents, there are some major problems with the legislation.

Brothers and sisters of adoptees whose parents may have died, cannot get information about each other. And there is still the problem of birthfathers whose names cannot be released from the Children’s Aid Society. These fathers may have admitted paternity at the Children’s Aid, but if they did not sign the Registration of Birth, they cannot obtain the new names of their children who were given up for adoption.

**It’s important to ask your local provincial candidate what he or she plans to do about these problems and their views on adoption reform.** You will probably have to do some “educating” as most candidates know little about adoption and adoption legislation. It’s time they did! Ask us for help with the right information.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming meeting. Please come and celebrate with us as we look back at the last 35 years!

*Patricia McGarron and the Board*

### *☞ In Memory of Pat Kempf ☞*

*We were all saddened to hear of the death of our longtime member and friend **Pat Kempf** on July 12, 2011. Pat searched for her daughter for more than 20 years. She never gave up hope of finding her and never stopped fighting for that right.*

*Pat was diagnosed with cancer in 2009, around the time the adoption records opened in Ontario. Ironically, we at Parent Finders were finally able to help her locate her daughter through a medical search outreach. As a result, Pat was able to spend the last 2 years of her life in contact with her daughter.*

*Pat wrote an article for the PF News in January 2010, (“A Blessing in Disguise, Part 2”) in which she said, “After all these anxious years, I am happy and relieved to know that my daughter is content with her life and has such a lovely family.”*

*We send condolences to her family on behalf of the Board of Directors and all those whose lives she touched. Contributions in Pat’s memory can be made to Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre or to Parent Finders Ottawa.*

## An Adoptee's Silent Grief

by Beverley McKiver

**I remember crying the first night in my adoptive home.** I was 5 years old. My adoptive parents and I were sitting in the living room and they were looking at me as if they didn't know what to do with me. I remember having that same feeling when I brought my daughter home from the hospital. Her life was entirely in my hands - now what? That first night in my new home, I really didn't want to be there. I liked the foster home where there were other kids to play with. I liked playing in the sand under the big tree. I had no idea how this was going to turn out and I didn't know if I even liked these new people.

My adoptive mother died of cancer when I was 8 years old. I don't remember that much about her. I just remember her being in the hospital a lot. She strongly resembled Wallis Simpson, the divorcee who married the King of England. She gave me the gift of music. She had eclectic musical tastes - everything from classical to jazz to country. She saw to it that I took piano lessons, something that gave me the confidence and purpose to get through my teenage years. My love of music has carried me through difficult times and is still an important part of my life. **I wish I could tell her what an impact she had on my life in the short time we had together.**

I don't think that I seriously started thinking about how adoption had affected my life until the birth of my daughter. **For the first time, I actually had a blood relative, someone who looked like me.** That started me thinking about who my relatives were and whether they missed me or not. I took to crying on the way to work. I have a half-hour commute. It became a conditioned response. Alone in my car with no one to witness, the tears would start. A couple of exits before I had to turn off, I would pull myself together and put on my 'day' face. On the way home, I would do the process in reverse and arrive home as though nothing was amiss.

What was I crying for? I have thought many times that there are so many more unfortunate people than I. With a life like mine, I had no reason to cry. I have everything I need and more. But that didn't make me feel any better. I became mired in my tears. **They were tears of bitterness, sadness, and anger.** Bitterness at my loss of self-worth. Sadness at not knowing whether anyone out there cared about my whereabouts. Anger at the red tape that prevented me from getting any information.

I was at work the day that one of my relatives contacted me and told me that I was a member of their community and that I indeed had relatives. I went into the bathroom and cried for half an hour. My eyes were swollen for the rest of the day. She had told me that my mother was dead. Somehow I had expected rejection, but rejection might have been easier to handle than to know that there was no possible chance for me to ever meet my mother. **How do you mourn someone you never even had a chance to know?** No one has a picture of her. Her sisters - my aunts - are too young to remember her. Some say that she looked like my younger sister and that she liked music. She attended residential school in another community.

"At the time of your admission to care, your birthmother had a serious alcohol problem, resulting in incarcerations and medical attention was being planned for her. She had two other children and was unable to care for them as a result of her illness." That is as descriptive as the non-identifying information gets about her. There's no physical description, nothing about her likes or dislikes, no medical information. No mention is made of my birthfather, only that he signed the adoption consent.

When I was in my early teens, unknown to me, my birthmother was severely injured in a bush accident and lingered for several months in crushing pain. I only know the sad facts about her life - her separation from her family at residential school, her debilitating illness, her inability to care for her children and her horrible death. **I can only hope that she had some joy in her life and that she is at peace.**

*Beverley McKiver is a member of the Aboriginal community who was adopted by a non-Aboriginal family. She has been a member of the Parent Finder's Board of Directors for several years.*

## Meet Our Co-op Student

**M**y name is **Katherine Huddlestone** and I'm a student in the Addictions and Community Service Worker program at Everest College in Ottawa. I found Parent Finders in the public service book known as *The Blue Book* and decided to call and see if they would take me on as a co-op student for the summer. **Patricia McCarron** soon called me back and welcomed me with open arms into the organization. I wanted to gain experience in dealing with counselling and grief work with people that I could really relate to.

**Parent Finders was a perfect match for me because I was adopted over 23 years ago.** I found my natural mother and birth siblings just over a year ago. I was born in Newfoundland and when I received my birth documents from Vital Statistics, I searched on Google for all the family names. Canada 411 eventually led me straight to my great uncle. I was unprepared for and unsure of what to do next. I decided to call and, without giving too much information, ask if they knew my mother and how she could be contacted. My great aunt was reluctant to give me the information, but I was fortunate that she did.

I then worked up the courage to call my natural mother. To this day, my natural mother and I have a complicated relationship. We've talked over the phone and Internet, but have not met in person. I truly feel that our relationship will be tense until we meet each other one on one. The day will soon come when I can travel to Newfoundland, but until then I'm happy with our long-distance relationship.

I did not have any assistance in finding my birth family. Now I wish that I had joined a group like Parent Finders to guide me through the journey so I didn't have to do it alone! Finding my birth family was a blessing, however, and couldn't have come at a better time as I was expecting my first child. I gave birth to a healthy baby boy named Mason on August 15, 2011.

During my co-op experience with Parent Finders, I made many phone calls to both adoptees and birth parents. Some hit a little close to home and **Monica Byrne** was always a good shoulder to cry on when needed. I also read a lot of true stories about adoption. One book in particular called *Butterbox Babies* by Bette Cahill was very touching. It is about a maternity home that operated in Nova Scotia from 1928 to 1945. Unwed mothers were treated with no respect and neither the children nor the mothers were properly taken care of. It was strictly a money-making scheme. This book brought to my attention the great courage of a birthmother and the need and/or want for adoptees to find out about their birth history and heritage. The book showed both sides of the story and I could relate to both!

Thanks to Parent Finders Ottawa for taking me on as a co-op student, guiding me through the hardships of adoption and showing me the importance of volunteer work and dedication!

## Court in B.C. Rules Anonymity is Unethical

*Not ever being able to know my origins has been a loss to me. I have two parents who loved and raised me, but my origins will always remain a mystery.*  
Olivia Pratten

**O**livia Pratten was conceived through sperm donation in British Columbia. The 28-year-old fought for years to learn her biological father's identity, but was eventually told that the doctor had legally destroyed the records in the 1990s. Now she has successfully sued the B.C. government to change the B.C. Adoption Act so that the offspring of sperm, egg, and embryo donors will be able to find out who their donors are.

In the decision, Justice Elaine Adair wrote that the Act should offer the same right to access medical records of biological parents to both adopted children and the offspring of donated sperm, egg or embryo. This access was given to adoptees in B.C. under new legislation in 1996. Justice Adair wrote "... assisted reproduction using an anonymous gamete donor is harmful to the child and is not in the best interests of donor offspring. **I grant a permanent injunction prohibiting the destruction, disposal, redaction or transfer out of B.C. of gamete donor records in British Columbia.**"

Commenting on the victory, Olivia Pratten said, "I recognize that not everybody wants to know, but now there is a choice. People have said it doesn't matter. I think that's for me to decide. **It's very empowering for people to be able to access that information.**"

Source: *CBC.ca*

## **A Journey of Joy, Walking Through Fear Part 1**

### **We Chose Life...**

Going down memory lane usually implies revisiting good memories...but not always. I became pregnant when I was 16 years old. It was 1979 - The International Year of the Child! At this time a teen pregnancy was considered to be a crisis. But I knew that my child was meant to be born, that this life growing inside my teenaged body was sacred. I went away to a maternity home and finished high school. My belly grew and I loved my baby, knowing that this life would bring tremendous joy to another couple. This thought made me smile and tear at the same time. I sang to her and told her I loved her.

Our daughter was adopted just after she was born. Was this the right decision? Was it expected? Was this path decided by societal pressure? Teen years are turbulent enough without becoming a mother now 17 years old. Although my boyfriend and I came from loving homes, our baby was rarely ever spoken of again after her birth. We got married 2 years after our daughter was adopted. **As many birthparents do, we buried our emotions so far down that at times we numbed ourselves in order to survive.** We almost forgot the pain, sorrow and emptiness until life experiences brought them back to the surface. We chose life for our baby but did we really have to suffer in silence for the rest of ours?

### **We Chose Truth...**

My husband and I had four more beautiful children together, three sons and a daughter. With the birth of each of our children, we remembered our firstborn. We silently wondered...was she happy? Did she look like her siblings? Would she ever know that her birthparents had always loved her? Although we never forgot, we were immersed in a busy family life. I prayed many times and somehow I knew she was safe, loved and happy. This thought helped to keep my silent pain at bay.

The pain of loss and separation from my firstborn was reawakened in my heart when the kids started leaving home to pursue their own paths. I was plunged into a deep depression, beyond anything I had ever expected or could prepare for. To the outside world, it looked like I just missed my children. After all, I was happily married with beautiful children and a close community of family and friends.

Just before two of our adult children left home in 2008, the Ontario Government announced that birthmothers and adopted children could apply for post-adoption birth information or sign a veto to protect their identity. There were ads on television, in newspapers and the subject was discussed on radio programs across the province. This information played havoc with my heart and I began an emotional journey of reunion without even being aware of it.

After a few months of freshly unlocked suppressed emotion, I finally realized that I was experiencing a form of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). I was suffering physical symptoms of stress that I could not explain. My heart was grieving all over again for my baby. I found the courage to talk about my true feelings with my husband, knowing that he too had buried our shared history. One evening through my tears I shared with him "What if? No we can't, but should we? It's too complicated!" My husband replied that we should get the forms completed and find our daughter!

We were afraid of the unknown, of rejection, of sharing our story with our children. But we downloaded the forms and filled them out together. I was flooded with suppressed memories and at times I was living in 1979 again. Even writing my maiden name and the city of our child's birth on the forms was difficult. I felt overcome by the loss of my baby girl locked inside my memory...a baby that was now a woman in her early thirties!

**Continued on page 6.....**

## **A Journey of Joy** (cont. from page 5)

In the months that followed, I experienced many layers of feelings. I asked myself why I couldn't just tuck this pain away again. **But I could not make peace with the sadness, loss and suppressed love for a baby I had never held.** I have a wonderful family and many special friends who knew I was suffering. I asked for their prayers and thanked them for loving me so much during this difficult time, but I was not willing to share my deepest longing. I feared it would make my situation even more real and yet it would still be unresolved.

It took us months to complete those forms and mail them in. Within weeks of mailing them, however, we received the information about our daughter! Our reunion journey had really begun. **We chose truth ...the truth of the heart that could no longer be suppressed.**

*This story was written by a new member of Parent Finders who requested that her name be withheld at this time. Part 2 of her story will appear in the next issue of PF News (January 2012).*

### **Two Fathers Gone** by Shirley Marie Brown Saad Tessier MacKenzie

*Two fathers gone.*

*One leapt into the grave before our hands could touch.*

*He thinks he is safe there.*

*The other resisted death with great will. Standing aged like a fragile tree firmly rooted. The great gale of tragedy found his weakness, and drew him to his death.*

*My heart swelled.*

*I knew this man's hands for they covered mine crossing many streets. He loved to brag of my taking - a cherished cherub for the choosing. This was an honourable position I felt - but I was a child.*

*Stories and books, stories and books filled my head. I loved the regalia of history and pictures. It seemed we searched for the same grail. What story might submerge next?*

*Not my own. My own belonged to files sealed twice and locked in a safe.*

*I begin to emerge into my new skin; one that had been blessed by Him, and given to me to design and paint and sing for life, and I am joined by others like me.*

*He is stiff with distrust for all that I become - he does not see his own reflection.*

*He demands to see it!!*

*I close my eyes and turn away.*

*When I return, we are only polite. I know he wants for me a dream I cannot live. He knows there are others calling for me, so he pretends he cannot hear.*

*We struggle to love what remains at the end of the day.*

*He is gone.*

*In many many ways, he has laid the cloth on which I have made so many paintings. He does not have to admit this for it to be true.*

**Shirley MacKenzie** is a member of Parent Finders, a reunited adoptee and a visual artist who expresses the complexity of feelings involved in the adoptee's search for identity through her painting and poetry. Shirley wrote this poem after the death of her adoptive father. You can see Shirley's paintings at the exhibit described below or visit her website at <http://artspace59.com>.

#### **An Exhibition of Paintings by Shirley MacKenzie**

October 3 to December 30, 2011  
The Ottawa Women's Credit Union  
271 Bank St. (at Somerset) Ottawa  
Tues. and Wed. 9 to 4 p.m.  
Thurs. and Fri. 9 to 6 p.m.  
[shirley59@sympatico.ca](mailto:shirley59@sympatico.ca)

## Past Reunions and Completed Searches

The following reunions and completed searches (listed here in no particular order) were dug up as a result of the massive cleanup of the Parent Finders Ottawa records this summer. While some of the files date back to the 1970s, most are from the mid-1990s when membership was at its highest. Most of these “completed” search files have been kept in our “open” files all these years! The actual dates of reunions vary over the last 20 years. If we know how the reunion happened, we have shown it under “type”. Please let us know when things change in your search. It may mean that we no longer need to keep your file “open”.

No.	Searcher	Birth Name	Birth Date	Type
11-01	Adoptee	Marie Theresa D.	May 6, 1946	
11-02	Birthmother	Mark David L.	March 24, 1969	
11-03	Adoptee	Tracey Arden M.	July 5, 1965	
11-04	Birth sister	Mark and John K.	December 14, 1956	
11-05	Birthmother	Melanie Jane M.	February 6, 1962	
11-06	Adoptee	Sharron Lee J.	March 14, 1942	SearchLine
11-07	Birthmother	Jennifer K. P.	November 11, 1967	
11-08	Adoptee	John B.	January 15, 1969	
11-09	Adoptee	George B.	November 4, 1955	ADR* match
11-10	Adoptee	Shawn L.	October 15, 1974	
11-11	Other (search for father)	Isaac W.	May 27, 1937	
11-12	Adoptee	Laurie Erin S.	March 12, 1975	
11-13	Adoptee	Kathy Kay L.	November 11, 1966	
11-14	Adoptee	Glenn R.	December 22, 1934	
11-15	Adoptee	Female baby	October 14, 1975	
11-16	Adoptee	Rosemary S.	April 28, 1975	
11-17	Adoptee	Mary K.	June 21, 1953	
11-18	Adoptee	Patricia B.	March 18, 1952	
11-19	Adoptee	Sandra P.	March 21, 1964	
11-20	Adoptee	Gilbert C.	February 3, 1967	
11-21	Other	Beverley R.	March 13, 1946	
11-22	Adoptee	Douglas L.	April 9, 1926	
11-23	Adoptee	Christopher K.	May 8, 1970	
11-24	Adoptee	Robin M. S.	February 21, 1965	SearchLine
11-25	Adoptee	Barbara A.	February 28, 1938	
11-26	Adoptee	Robin B.	November 2, 1955	
11-27	Adoptee	Beatrice C.	October 4, 1941	
11-28	Adoptee	Cindy F.	February 14, 1973	
11-29	Birthmother	Daniel W.	November 23, 1968	
11-30	Adoptee	Sharon M.	March 21, 1951	
11-31	Adoptee	Katherine Lisa R.	August 5, 1968	
11-32	Adoptee	Maxine	July 25, 1957	
11-33	Adoptee	Vickie Lynn G.	May 13, 1975	
11-34	Adoptee	Elizabeth P.	May 28, 1952	
11-35	Adoptee	Carol Dawn M.	October 22, 1953	
11-36	Adoptee	Rosemary G.	August 31, 1945	
11-37	Adoptee	Jos John Daniel L.	June 9, 1937	

## Completed Searches and Reunions (cont.)

No.	Searcher	Birth Name	Birth Date	Type
11-38	Adoptee	Dawn Marie M.	February 17, 1993	
11-39	Birth sister	Keri L.	1965	
11-40	Birth sister	Ernest N.	1929 or 1930	
11-41	Birthmother	Todd Michael L.	January 16, 1966	
11-42	Adoptee	Mary Ann O.	September 5, 1956	
11-43	Adoptee	Male baby B.	March 30, 1963	
11-44	Birthmother	Linda C.	November 20, 1978	
11-45	Birthmother	Michel T.	March 20, 1968	
11-46	Birthmother	Sandra M.	May 20, 1970	ADR* match
11-47	Birthmother	John W.	April 3, 1946	
11-48	Birthmother	Karl Andrew T.	February 5, 1968	
11-49	Birth sister	Orah Elizabeth J.	November 8, 1969	
11-50	Adoptee	Jos Charles Denis M.	May 3, 1962	
11-51	Adoptee	Charles Alexander N.	January 31, 1964	
11-52	Birthmother	Matthew R.	July 10, 1968	
11-53	Birth relative	Deborah B.	July 3, 1964	
11-54	Birthmother	Phillip Russell M.	December 29, 1970	
11-55	Birthmother	Pauline H.	April 10, 1965	
11-56	Birthmother	Robert B.	April 22, 1967	
11-57	Birthmother	Michael John H.	February 13, 1965	
11-58	Birthmother	David Michael Z.	June 6, 1963	
11-59	Birthmother	Tanya L.	March 18, 1973	
11-60	Birthmother	Michael C.	March 9, 1965	ADR* match
11-61	Birth sister	Marion M.	February 27, 1949	ADR* match
11-62	Adoptee	Joanne D.	March 3, 1962	
11-63	Birth sister	Nicolette M.	May 1959	ADR* match
11-64	Birthmother	Joseph T.	February 26, 1975	Search for medical reasons
11-65	Adoptee	Cathy Marie and Gary David	April 5, 1963	
11-66	Adoptee	Richard M.	September 5, 1959	
11-67	Adoptee	Suzanne A.	January 9, 1965	
11-68	Birthmother	Brian Christopher W.	September 7, 1974	
11-69	Birthmother	Stephanie Lee B.	February 28, 1973	
11-70	Adoptee	Edith Doreen H.	October 2, 1933	
11-71	Adoptee	Patricia K.	May 5, 1971	Search for medical reasons
11-72	Birthmother	Karen M.	June 21, 1984	
11-73	Birthmother	Lee Anne Dawn F.	August 17, 1976	
11-74	Birthmother	Craig Andrew B.	August 24, 1968	CARI**
11-75	Birthmother	David L.	July 31, 1969	CARI**
11-76	Birthmother	Ann Theresa B.	April 29, 1977	
11-77	Birthmother	Cheryl C.	April 18, 1975	ADR* match
11-78	Adoptee	Gilbert	June 2, 1942	SearchLine

## Completed Searches and Reunions (cont.)

No.	Searcher	Birth Name	Birth Date	Type
11-79	Birthmother	Lisa Anne D.	July 23, 1966	
11-80	Adoptee	Naomi C.	November 21, 1964	Private investigator
11-81	Birth sister	Ginette G.	July 31, 1969	
11-82	Birthfather	Jillian P.	September 15, 1973	
11-83	Birthmother	Sean Michael B.	July 4, 1978	
11-84	Adoptee	Bonnie Yvonne W.	August 25, 1952	
11-85	Adoptee	Jacqueline Roberta C.	July 23, 1957	ADR* match
11-86	Adoptee	Dianne	December 28, 1962	Batshaw agency search
11-87	Birth sister	Male baby H.	October 10, 1965	ADR* match
11-88	Adoptee	Christine B.	February 15, 1973	ADR* match
11-89	Birthmother	Sean Paul M.	September 23, 1971	
11-90	Birthmother	Jeremy O.	November 8, 1975	

\*Adoption Disclosure Registry

\*\*Canadian Adoptees Registry Inc.



### Search Alerts

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

### Searchers

Repeat	Searcher	Birth Name	Birth Date	Birth Place
	Birthmother	David LETTS	June 3, 1965	Civic Hospital, Ottawa, Ont.
X	Birthmother	Todd Wallace SABOURIN	January 21, 1969	General, Toronto, Ontario
	Adoptee	Casey May McCAULEY	February 6, 1979	Riverside, Ottawa, Ontario
	Birth sister	Mary RAYFIELD	July 4, 1945	Guelph, Ontario
X	Birthmother	Harold SAUNDERS	July 26, 1965	St. John's, Newfoundland
	Adoptee	Laura ARMSTRONG	August 3, 1978	General, Ottawa, Ontario
X	Adoptee	Heather _____	November 25, 1985	Grace, Ottawa, Ontario
X	Birth sister	Marcel MAINVILLE	September 15, 1953	Smiths Falls, Ontario

### Slowdown in Requests for Post-adoption Birth Information and Vetoes

A total of 13,699 people have applied for post-adoption birth information since Ontario's new legislation came into effect in June 2009. This is an increase of 1,047 requests since February 2011. Requests for disclosure vetoes continue to drop and are now at 6,772, which is an increase of only 48 vetoes since February 2011. There have been 1,642 applications for no-contact notices and 2,819 people have applied for contact preferences. As the requests decrease, so too do the waiting times. Requests are now filled in about 2 weeks. Even if you are in reunion, **we urge you to request your documents.** We worked so long and hard for the right to have this information! And, best of all, it's free. **Apply for your information at [ServiceOntario.ca](http://ServiceOntario.ca) or visit us at [parentfindersottawa.ca](http://parentfindersottawa.ca) for information on how to download the application forms.**



## BULLETIN BOARD

**Upcoming PF Meetings**  
**October 13, 2011 (35<sup>th</sup> anniversary)**  
**January 12, 2012**  
**May 10, 2012**  
 Southminster United Church  
 7 Galt Street, Ottawa  
**Everyone welcome!**

**Visit Parent Finders on Facebook**  
 Join us at our new Facebook page, "Parent Finders Ottawa". Give us a "thumbs up" and help spread the word! Write on our Wall and tell us how you think we're doing. If you have a reunion picture to share, forward it to us and we'll include it among our photos.

**Please renew your membership!**  
 If there's a "Now Due" stamp on your envelope, then it's time to renew your Parent Finders membership. Parent Finders is operated by unpaid volunteers and receives no outside funding. Please support us - we're working for you!

**Adoptee Support Group**  
 Are you interested in being part of a support group for adoptees? We are considering organizing such a group in Ottawa to begin in 2012. Call Parent Finders at 613-730-8305 for more information.

***B & M BOOKS***  
 We carry a large assortment of **books about adoption loss, search and reunion**. For more information call Joan at 613-825-1640 or Monica at 613-730-8305.

The **Canadian Adoptees Registry Inc. (CARI)** has a Canadian focus and more than 100,000 people registered. CARI has been a part of over 7,000 reunions, including many of ours. As part of your search, don't forget to **register at this free online registry:**  
[www.canadianadopteesregistry.org](http://www.canadianadopteesregistry.org)


**Adoptees Have Answers**  
 This group in Minnesota offers services for and about adult adoptees, including on-line seminars. For more information and to subscribe to their newsletter, go to [www.aha.mn](http://www.aha.mn).

**International Soundex Reunion Registry (ISRR)** is a mutual-consent registry for matching people who wish contact with their birth relatives. Visit the registry's updated website at [isrr.org](http://isrr.org) for more information and to register.

**In Memoriam**  
 Please consider leaving a bequest to Parent Finders in your will or making a donation in memory of a loved one. Your gift will help us to support others in searching for their lost family members.

**Attention!**  
 Please note that **Parent Finders Montreal is no longer operating**. Their website is gone and their contact information is no longer valid. Other Parent Finders groups should remove them from their contact lists. For information about our search contacts in Quebec, please call Parent Finders Ottawa at 613-730-1039.

### Parent Finders of Canada and Parent Finders Ottawa

Reuniting families separated by adoption 

[www.parentfindersottawa.ca](http://www.parentfindersottawa.ca)

**A** non-profit support group for all members of the adoption community over 18 years of age. We help to reunite family members separated by adoption by providing information and support to those searching and assistance in building positive relationships after reunion. **Public meetings are held in January, May, and October**. Our annual membership fee is \$50 and includes a subscription to our newsletter. A subscription to the newsletter alone is \$12 a year or \$20 for 2 years. International memberships are \$75 a year. 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@yahoo.com](mailto:pfncr@yahoo.com), or visit our website.