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RENFREW, ON
K7V 1R2 1999

OPEONGO LINES

The Voice of Heritage Renfrew

Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow

No 1 January 1999

COMING EVENTS:

ANNUAL MEETING, 7:00 pm, Wednesday, Jan 27, at Leclaire's Hall, under the M&M on Raglan Street. Councillor Lois MacGregor will talk about the Town's Year 2000 plans and Kay and Dave Lorente will give an update on what has happened since they talked on Home Children in the British House of Commons. Everybody welcome. Free admission.

HERITAGE LUNCHEON, Monday, February 15, at Trinity-St Andrews Church United Church from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Everybody welcome! Soup, sandwich, tea or coffee and muffin for only \$5.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Some of you are looking forward to the new millennium beginning at midnight on New Year's Eve 1999. Others - the purists, mathematicians and historians among you - will know that the new millennium will really begin a year later. The more practical among us have been heard to say "Who cares? We Ottawa Valley types really believe in the two-party system - one on Friday night and one on Saturday! . So what if the really big ones are 365 days apart! We'll go with the flow and celebrate both!"

Amid all the gazing into crystal balls, it is sometimes refreshing to look back and see where we have been. Retrospection gives us a sense of direction. Knowing where we have been suggests where we might be heading. It is with these thoughts in mind that, as your retiring President, I submit this report on the past year's activities.

Two years ago, as your newly elected President, I - and my executive - inherited the wonderful legacy left in place especially by the executives who had moved into our wonderful facility at the National Archives in Renfrew. Starting with virtually nothing but a collection of dusty boxes, they had the foresight to develop a five-year plan to give us a user-friendly state-of-the-art archives that catered to the needs of the researchers who came to us. Because of reduced government grant and our own budgetary restraints, that plan took an extra year to complete. But just about everything was in place when we took over in 1997 and the number of users that year more than doubled the previous year's record high. And this year we came within dozens of last year's high of 2040 actual users. But our internet hits, mail, phone and Home Children inquiries put us way over the top. The total number of people Heritage Renfrew served in 1998 is almost 5,000.

Not bad for a bunch of volunteers in a town of 8,300! Not bad for an archives that receives no municipal or corporate financing as some other Valley Towns do! Not bad for an executive that received a late and reduced operations grant for 1998 from the government of only \$1,226!

I wish to thank the directors and members, especially those who attended meetings faithfully and made positive contributions to the team. The credit for what was accomplished in 1998 is yours. Thank you. To the incoming executive we offer best wishes and a challenge we are sure you will meet.

Kay Gollinger-Lorente, President 1997-1998

1998 IN REVIEW - The President's Report

This is not intended to be a pat on the collective backs of our active members and directors, however proud we are of their accomplishments in the year that was. Heritage Renfrew is actually required to submit each year a summary of the preceding year's accomplishments to indicate to the government and other organizations that any support they might have given us that year was justified. We thought you too might enjoy this jaunt down memory lane and tantalizing peek at what might be in the future.

1. PRESIDENT'S PLAN

a) As required by the constitution the President submitted a plan of action for the year which had input from directors and was formally adopted by them. Faced with a much reduced operating grant from the government it was decided to "hold the line", expend our energies on consolidating our archival collection and mounting historical plaques this year so that we would be able to do so again in the Year 2000. (The Ontario Heritage Foundation requires that there be a two-year hiatus between subsidized unveilings.) The two-person Home Children Canada Committee was left to respond, as is their wont, to such exigencies as might arise.

2. ARCHIVES

a) Renfrew Archives continues to be our major project. It is staffed entirely by volunteers and receives no funding from county, town, local businesses or industry as other Valley archives do. We are members of the Friends of the National Archives and of the AAO (Archives Assoc of Ontario) and the Ontario Historical Society..

b) 1,561 users visited our facility this past year, a few dozen fewer than in 1997. To that number can be added the several thousands who have visited our website, made inquiries by mail, and the record high 4,500 who contacted our Home Children Canada Committee for help in locating child migrant records or family.

c) With this year's addition of Griffith's Valuation of post Famine Irish and Tanguay's compilation of families to Quebec we now have over 40 (forty) million records on microfiche.

d) We have also added many family histories, church and cemetery records and local Tweedsmuir histories to our collection.

- e) We continue to hold in trust for the Renfrew Recreation Commission the Harry Hinchley collection of hockey photos and memorabilia until a display area is built at the rink.
- f) OLGA LEWIS continues to make use of our microfilms of Mercury newspapers (since 1871) for her weekly column on past decades.
- g) We bade fond adieu to BOB ARMSTRONG and welcomed PAT McINTYRE, his replacement, as Director of the Renfrew branch of the National Archives.
- h) We took out an institutional Membership in AAO (The Archives Association of Ontario).
- i) We invited Brian Maschaele, AAO Archives Advisor, to visit our facility and advise us on what should be done to bring it up to new millennium standards. His suggestions included the implementation of RAD (the new national archival description standard without which we can never get an archival assistance grant), soliciting corporate financing, hiring or contracting a trained archivist, limiting access to some records except in the presence of a designated official.
- j) We applied for but did not get a co-op student from Canada's only Archivist technician program at Algonquin College in Ottawa or from the local secondary schools.
- k) We went on an ergonomic kick and replaced bulky chairs at the archives with stackable leather ones that actually fit under the tables and allow space to move about.
- l) Vice-President MARTIN MUNHALL arranged for us to be listed in the new County Directory and officially classed as a Library so that we can order Interlibrary Loan material directly.
- m) We mounted exhibits at the Heritage Luncheon, RCI 1950's Reunion, the Renfrew Women's Network, Lumber Festival, Genealogical Conference, Plaque unveilings, Jordan's Fashions, as well as at many other presentations (see Home Children).
- n) We have acquired A MANUAL FOR SMALL ARCHIVES and ordered the updated version.
- o) It is obvious that in an electronic age our Archives must not only produce hard copies of what we have, we must do so in the latest standardized fashion that governs even letter spacing so that our holdings can be put on and accessed through the internet - and so we move on to RAD.
- p) We have standardized the operating systems of our two computers which may still require an upgrade in the new year.
- q) Our purchase of a flatbed scanner and colour printer now enable us to eventually replicate the job of storing hard copy electronically as is done by the NAC and the School Net Digital Project.
- r) We arranged for the National Archives to examine our complete Harry Hinchley photo collection to certify ownership of some photos.

OF ARCHIVAL THINGS TO COME

- t) We have ordered more cemetery lists for Renfrew County and have started to build census records for such "feeder" counties as Lanark.
- u) We were unsuccessful in getting a co-op technician from Algonquin College this year and hope to have more luck in enticing one or more this way in '99.
- v) We also hope to make our first bid for an archives operation grant in '99.

3. MEETINGS & PRESENTATIONS

- a) Directors met at regular monthly meetings and also on several other occasions.
- b) The Annual Meeting in January featured Senator Sister PEGGY BUTTS who spoke on the importance of research and archives in reaching out to others. She also answered questions from the floor on the Senate and moves to abolish it.

- c) OLGA LEWIS chaired our first ever day-long Genealogical Conference.
- d) Eight presentations were made including a bus tour of the Opeongo Colonization Road to Madawaska High School. (See Home Children)
- e) Directors also were involved in five Home Children Reunions and meetings abroad and in Canada with government officials. (see Home Children)

4. HONOURS

- a) In January '98 Life Memberships were bestowed upon Ed and Jeanetta Hall. Similar memberships will be given by the 1998 executive at the Annual Meeting later this month to HELEN CLARKE, EARL and MARGE LINDSAY, DOROTHY SKINNER and HANK LEGRIS. Most have been members of HR from the very beginning and have served in some executive capacity.
- b) Their respective local governments and/or the Ontario Heritage Foundation bestowed honours on three HR directors this year: JIM MacGREGOR, EARL and MARGE LINDSAY, GRACE and VAUGHAN SIMMONS. They join former director CAROL McCUAIG who was so honoured a year ago and had her photo on the Ontario Heritage Day Poster last February.
- c) APOLROD (The Association for the Protection of Land Records that were slated to be destroyed by the Ontario government) presented certificates to those directors involved in their successful program: OLGA LEWIS, FRANK McMAHON, LILA PRINCE, DAVE LORENTE.

5. PLAQUING

- a) Heritage Renfrew was responsible for the erection of a record three historical plaques in '98.
- b) A local marker erected at Ma-te-way Park now commemorates the role played by the O'Briens of Renfrew in the founding, funding and initial operation of the Montreal Canadiens Hockey Team and the founding of the National Hockey Association which later became the NHL.
- c) Two Provincial Plaques were erected by the Ontario Heritage Foundation after four years of instigation by our Plaquing Committee chair DAVID LORENTE. The one erected in June in Ottawa commemorates Child Migrants (see Home Children). The other at Mat-te-way Park honours the Renfrew Millionaires of 1910, the last team from a small town to play for the Stanley Cup. The Town hosted a reception and will arrange with the province and local governments for highway plaques to direct visitors to the newly installed markers.
- d) Heritage Renfrew and the Town also contributed to the \$4,500 cost assumed by the community for this project. We also collected donations from citizens and groups in town. In this we fell short almost \$1,000 dollars which cost we expect the town to share with us in '99.

OF THINGS TO COME

- e) By scheduling the erection of plaques in 1998 we can now request an Ontario Heritage Foundation subsidy for our Year 2000 project of erecting a local marker to commemorate our Old Town Hall and Barney's Lane (Duke Street) which was once called after a former much loved and respected chief of police.
- f) The town's Street Naming Committee has not yet responded to our request that "Duke Street", which has no apparent historical significance) be renamed "Barney's Lane".
- g) We shall seek other sponsors to have plaques erected in 1999 and 2000 (see Home Children)
- h) We arranged for local provincial historical plaques to get a "facelift" in 1999.

6. PUBLICATIONS

- a) This is our fourth edition of Heritage Renfrew's Newsletter **OPEONGO LINES**. We thank **SANDI MERCER** for taking over the editorship (properly the domain of the President) and using her computer skills to give it a new look - if only for a while. Thanks too to our printing, collating and mailing crew.
- b) We have also updated our checklist for researchers at Renfrew Archives, our Genealogical Research Flow Sheet and have a Heritage Renfrew promo pamphlet in the works.
- c) In the area of electronic publication **MARTIN MUNHALL** has kept our **WEBSITE** updated.. Visit us at [<renarch@renc.igs.net>](mailto:renarch@renc.igs.net)
- d) See also Home Children re publication of Fegan Database and new researchers' kit.
- e) Our Home Children and Millionaires Provincial Plaques were featured in Ontario Heritage Foundation articles.
- f) A brief account of the circumstances that led to our being in the National Archives Building in Renfrew was prepared for the new facility director **PAT McINTYRE**. It was history no one had thought to record until now.

7. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Chair **JOYCE LAIRD** reports that in 1998 we had 341 members of whom the 164 mainly interested in Home Children made donations of \$2,426. There was also \$134 donated by the general membership. **JOYCE** is gratified to see that 85 members are already paid up for 1999 and 2 for Y2000. Congratulations, **Joyce**, for a superb job as Membership Chair!
- b) This is perhaps the time and place to congratulate the unsung members at large who show up and help out at various activities (heritage luncheons, meetings, Lumber Festival parades and festivities, and Home Children reunions, etc).

8. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- a) Heritage Renfrew helped to thwart the Renfrew County Board of Education's bid to claim sole ownership of the Public Parkland known as Victoria Park which had been given to "the people of Renfrew" by a former prime minister. The legal decision was ostensibly a win-win one for both parties; in fact, the only losers were "the people of Renfrew". They lost what was rightfully theirs. The town deeded the lot to the RCBE but the latter must return it to the town for \$1 if they should dispose of the school they had closed before claiming the property. The people of Renfrew County also lost out; their taxes paid the lawyers' fees on both sides. Charles Dickens had a pithy saying about the law which might apply here.
- b) We acted on **STELLA LAVIOLETTE**'s suggestion that, in honour of the closing of the Renfrew Victoria Hospital 100 celebrations, we revive for one-time only an old French custom of giving the area's firstborn a gift. Accordingly, in early 1998, Kevin and Fiona Brown's child was the recipient of a \$100 Canada Savings Bond and other token presents.
- c) We had another successful Fall Colours Bus tour up the Opeongo Colonization Road to Spectacle Lake Lodge and back along the Madawaska. In keeping with our tradition cost was minimal, just \$10. Meals were the individuals' responsibility. **FRANK McMAHON** and **OLGA LEWIS** arranged bus and ticket reservations. **DAVE LORENTE SR** was guide.
- d) We completed more SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) sheets so that we can leave future executives hard copies of the pros and cons of how we proceeded with various activities.
- e) On the advice of the provincial advisor we added the word "Archives" to our constitution.

- f) FRANK McMAHON, OLGA LEWIS and LILA PRINCE completed the inventory of Land Records for Renfrew and area. DAVE LORENTE was liaison officer for our APOLROD committee and served on the post-inventory group that sought a home for the county collection. Should one not be found we have claimed the three cabinets having to do with Renfrew and area.
- g) FRANK McMAHON continued as our fly-on-the wall at Lumber Festival meetings.
- h) Once again SYLVIA HODGINS, STELLA LAVIOLETTE, GRACE AND VAUGHAN SIMMONS, DORIS AND BRIAN LONG and others combined efforts to capture the 1998 trophy for the most creative float in the Lumber Festival Parade.
- i) Heritage Renfrew directors and members again formed the backbone of the Strolling players with SYLVIA HODGINS and EDDIE LEE leading the way.
- j) We voiced strong opposition to the Senate re the proposed placement of a Holocaust Memorial in the War Museum, though not to such a memorial itself.
- k) DAVE LORENTE designed a Heritage Renfrew pin which is now on sale for \$2.00 and a Heritage Renfrew coffee mug which sells for \$4.00.
- l) OLGA LEWIS conducted eight sessions on Beginning Genealogy.
- m) We again held a very successful Heritage Luncheon at Trinity-St Andrew's Church.
- n) GRACE and VAUGHAN SIMMONS again compiled a scrapbook of our activities.
- o) Our STROLLING PLAYERS again visited Groves Park and Bonnechere Manor on special occasions.
- p) We established for the Town's sake that Heritage Renfrew had indeed "donated" the Shantyman Statue to the Annual Lumber Baron Festival Committee.
- q) We gave Madison Publishers the right to use a picture from our collection in the *OUR STORE* (Story of Canadian Tire) book.
- r) We petitioned the Federal Government re the copyright bill.
- s) We submitted ideas to the Minister of Canadian Heritage re the proposed Walk of Heroes.
- t) FRANK McMAHON took custody of our collection of hard copies of Renfrew Mercuries which had been stored in a barn and was too large for our limited space at the archives.
- u) We met and entertained several visitors this past year including PAUL LITT of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and BRIAN MASSCHAELE of the Archives Assoc of Ontario, (see also Home Children).

10. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a) Treasurer OLGA LEWIS reported a balance of \$8,0314 at year's end.
- b) The government operating grant was reduced again and came later in the year than usual. It covers the cost of operating one of our photocopiers for the year with \$2 left over for all other activities (i.e. Grant: \$1,226; cost of operating one photocopier for the year: \$1,224).
- c) We congratulate OLGA for a job well done.

HOME CHILDREN CANADA - 1998 REPORT

by Dave & Kay Lorente

1. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REPORT ON "CHILD MIGRATION"

- a) In mid-summer 1997 Prime Minister Blair announced that an all-party Health Select Committee would be looking into Britain's role and responsibility in Child Migration.

Heritage Renfrew's Home Children Committee immediately faxed him our fears that only the interests of those children sent to Australia seemed likely to be addressed (largely because child migrants there have threatened legal action because of the falsification of their records etc.) We asked that home children sent to Canada be included. Subsequent events would prove our concerns were well-founded.

b) We submitted a 51-page "not-so-brief" BRIEF TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE last February. It contained 29 recommendations.

c) The House of Commons invited us to London at our own expense to talk to the brief for an hour. We were invited to send other recommendations on our return. We sent a dozen more.

d) While we were in the House of Commons Mr Tom Luce, Head of Policy for the Health Department (which now speaks to Britain's responsibility for children) invited us to meet with him in private for two hours of frank exchange after we were questioned by the Committee.

e) The committee flew in child migrants from Australia to be interviewed and also spent a week visiting them in Australia and New Zealand. (It should be noted that 7,000 to 10,000 were sent to Australia and only hundreds to New Zealand.)

f) There is no record of the British Committee "on Child Migration" interviewing a single child migrant from Canada, yet 100,000 children were sent here; that's two-thirds of the total 150,000 exported from the "mother" country. The committee also rejected Home Children Canada's invitation to come and visit Home Children and their descendants in Canada. The British Government's committee report is a misnomer. And we have told them so!

g) That said, the committee did adopt several of our recommendations including the suggestions that

- i) a central database of aggregate information be set up to direct inquirers to sources of information re their missing child migrant records. Canada has been working on one for several years.,
- ii) an office/official with support staff be set up in each of the receiving countries to, in effect, do what Home Children Canada has been doing, i.e. act as an advocate for child migrants and their descendants, direct inquirers to sources in Canada and abroad, continue to lobby for the release of records now under closure, host reunions and information sessions, disseminate information, research kits, ship photos, etc and provide counseling for those who need it.
- iii) such an office should be as large as the volume of inquiries demands and be in the Ottawa area, close to the seat of federal government, the British High Commission, the National Library and Archives of Canada (repositories of the very records many are seeking) and other Archives and organizations specializing in British genealogy.

h) We also submitted a critique of what we perceive to be a very biased report by the committee to the British Government (inasmuch as its focus was almost exclusively on Australia).

i) As a result, a week before Christmas '98, Mr Luce came to Canada for a working meeting with us and a representative from the British High Commission. All of us then met with Canadian government officials from Foreign Affairs, Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration, the National Archives, Parks Canada and others.

j) We have been asked by Canadian officials not to comment on what transpired at that meeting and have been told that they will hold a special meeting (without us) on 11 January to discuss Canada's future involvement. Our concern is that they do not have an understanding of what has been done by Home Children Canada and what can be done by the Canadian government.

k) We can say that Mr Luce assured us at our earlier meeting with him that the British Government can supersede the Committee's suggestions and is quite willing to address Canada's demands. That said, Canada is autonomous and must make its own decisions about what it will do and the degree of its involvement with action taken by the British. We await the decisions of the Canadian officials. We are assuming that they will inform or consult us on matters not discussed at our meeting, e.g. the formation of an office in Canada to assist child migrants and their families and the extent of their collaboration with the plan to partially fund first time trips to the UK for Home Children to meet family.

l) This much is certain, apart from sending Open Letters to our Reunions, the Governments of Britain and Canada, until now, have never done a single solitary thing for the Child Migrants and their descendants who are said to make up 11.5% of our population.

m) There is one exception to the above. Canada's Citizenship and Immigration have responded to our requests for help in getting "classification" (citizenship) for Home Children by fast-tracking the system for anyone who gets in touch with us. (This happened after we were involved in advocacy cases for a Home Child - a 5 year veteran who served overseas and lived in Canada for over 70 years - who was denied access to the USA, and for the widows of Home Children who were denied life insurance and access to a spouse's estate because of lack of "classification.")

n) We'll keep you posted on what happens next..

o) For those attending the annual Meeting in Renfrew on January 27th we will report on what has transpired up to then. More updates in the next Newsletter.

p) Neither the British nor the Canadian Government - we approached three ministries - could find funds to subsidize our trip to the UK to talk to the British Parliamentary Committee. Heritage Renfrew offered to give us \$1,000 out of Home Children donations; this we refused because the money is earmarked for special projects. The sole contribution to our expenses came from Barnardos of London; they sent us 250 pounds Sterling.

2. WITH HOME CHILDREN CANADA AT LIVERPOOL U. AND IN THE U.K.

a) Your committee was invited to attend the International Child Welfare Conference at the University of Liverpool in July - again at our own expense - to close the "thread" on Child Migration. We went and renewed acquaintances with old friends who had visited our Reunions in Canada. We also visited the Maritime Museum and many repositories of Home Children records.

b) While abroad we visited former sending agencies: Barnardos, The Church of England, Quarriers of Scotland, and the Nugent Care Society in Liverpool as well as author/historian JOAN FOSTER who has spent time with us in Canada..

c) We received many lists and resource books that will help us in our work from MIKE LYONS of the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Southwark, from LIVERPOOL (from PATRICIA McEVOY and JOHN KENNEDY) and from JOYCE CARROLL of Birmingham.

d) The Nugent Care Society also made a handsome contribution of 200 Pounds Sterling to our proposed plaques for the unmarked graves in Ottawa's Notre Dame Cemetery. And we have the promise of more from the Sisters of Charity in Birmingham; their order was in charge of St George's Distribution Home in Ottawa.

3. REUNIONS ' 98

a) We held our 8th Annual Reunion at the former St George's Receiving/Distribution Home in Ottawa on June 14, '98. An overflow crowd of about 300 participated, including ten Home

Children. Descendants came from as far west as B.C. and California and as far south as Texas and Florida. Overseas guests who came at their own expense included representatives from sending agencies in Liverpool (JOHN KENNEDY, Director, and PAT McEVOY, Archivist, of the Nugent Care Society) and Birmingham (JOYCE CARROLL, Social Worker with Fr Hudson's Archives.) Messages were received from Prime Minister Blair, Rev. Patrick Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool, Mary Gandy, General Secretary of the Catholic Child Welfare Council in the UK, and Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

b) In September we were part of the Barnardos After Care team at gatherings in Toronto (2), Tillsonburg and Peterborough. We also arranged meetings with archives officials in Ottawa.

4. SPECIAL PROJECTS

a) We have been in touch with every Minister of Education in every province and territory in Canada asking if they have a unit on Home Children in their school curricula, if not why not, and would they like input for one. Now we have to compose a unit.

b) We have been in touch with Frank Fahey, Minister of State for Ireland, re the Irish study on child migration.

c) We again lost out on our bid to have Canada Post print a Home Child stamp. We try again.

5. PLAQUES

a) We arranged for the first provincial plaque in Canada to commemorate Home Children to be erected at the former St George's Home in Ottawa during our Reunion there on June 14.

b) We have planned plaques for the unmarked graves of Home Children in Notre Dame cemetery in Ottawa. The Nugent Care Society of Liverpool has given us a donation for this project.

c) We have provided information for erecting plaques to Belleville and Peterborough; the former is still looking into it; the latter will erect a plaque next June.

d) We also hope to have a bronze plaque erected at Halifax's Pier 21 opening in Year 2,000.

6. PRESENTATIONS

a) We made seven presentations this past year to the Renfrew University Women, SFX Catholic Women's League, Glasgow ON Women's Institute, Haliburton Genealogical Society, Ottawa Unitarian Home for Seniors, the Calgary Genealogical Society and Heritage Renfrew's Genealogical Conference.

7. ENVOIE

Like everyone else, we are feeling the pinch! What has been accomplished this year, as in the past, has been because of unstinting effort by our volunteers. Consider this: our reduced and late government operating grant for 1998-1999 is \$1226. (That's \$2 more than our costs for operating and maintaining our newer photocopier and it leaves us the princely sum of a twoonie to somehow pay off our insurance premium, membership in the Friends of the National Archives, the Ontario Archives Association and the local Chamber of Commerce, compulsory [or we don't get any grant at all] membership in the Ontario Historical Society, materials, postage and other supplies for the year.) As we have since we moved into the Archives, we have had to dip into reserves set aside for future publications and in case of emergencies. We have spent money on pins and mugs; the unsold ones (and our unsold publications) are "money in the bank" but only if they are sold. We ask you to order your pins now from our membership chair JOYCE LAIRD.

We do not send mugs through the mail; they can be picked up at the Archives on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday to Friday.

And once again, to the directors, especially those who have who have attended meetings regularly and worked together to make this a successful year, my heartfelt thanks.

Kay Gollinger-Lorente, President 1997-1998

NOTICE OF MOTION (to be voted on by members at the Annual Meeting)

Whereas Revenue Canada changed our Registered Charity number as of September 1998,

Be it resolved that Article I, Section 1 of our Constitution be revised by deleting our former number and inserting the new one so that the section will read:

The name of this charitable, non-profit society # 11895 6499 RR0001 shall be Heritage Renfrew.

ATTENTION HOME CHILDREN!!!!

A few weeks ago the British Government set aside 2.6 million dollars to subsidize "first trips" back for those Home Children who "can't afford" to pay full costs to go to the UK to meet "close relatives". Trips to start in May 1999. We don't yet know if there is to be a means test or exactly what some of the conditions are, if an accompanying adult can be included etc.

Meanwhile the Canadian and British Governments are asking us "How many are there who want to go back?" They don't know; we don't know. But YOU can tell us.

If you are a Home Child and would like to apply to go back to the UK, please contact Home Children Canada. We will notify both governments. Tell us also if you would like to visit the sending agency and we will advise them too.

And if you can't go back, or choose not to, please get in touch with us anyway and tell us what you think the British and Canadian governments could do for our Little Immigrants. We'll compile the results and send copies to London, Ottawa and the agencies once involved. And we'd love to hear from descendants if the Home Children in your family are no longer with us. It's never too late to remember.

MAIL your response to: Home Children Canada, 107 Erindale Ave, Renfrew ON, K7V 4G3