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UPDATE

Home Children Canada's
NEWSLETTER
January 2005 No.1



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(Home Children Canada is a committee of Heritage Renfrew, a registered charitable organization)

NB. INQUIRIES re Home Children Records should be sent to John Sayers, Chair of BIFHSGO Home Children Committee, 2157 Fillmore Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1J 6A1. Ph (613) 747-5547
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WELCOME TO 2005

May the New Year bring you peace, health and happiness

Come one, come all and bring a friend or two to
Heritage Renfrew's Annual General Meeting.
7:00 pm, Thursday, 27 January, 2005
Library and Archives Canada Building
770 Gibbons Rd, Renfrew ON

The theme is Home Children and we shall have the Federal Government's interactive travelling display on hand, a letter from the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister in charge of the Status of Women, a short PowerPoint presentation and (weather and health permitting) one or two Ottawa Valley Home Children for you to meet and interview.

Admission and refreshments are free. All are welcome.

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Editorial

The survivor as victim

The cataclysmic devastation of the Boxing Day tsunami brings a sober reminder to us, who have been close to Home Children, of the traumatic effects that loss and separation can have. The well-intentioned souls involved in the child migration movement which ended in 1948 in Canada and in 1967 in Australia and elsewhere knew virtually nothing of these effects. It is only in recent years that Kubler-Ross, who died just a few months ago, and others identified at least fifteen emotional phases, some or all of which anyone, adult or child, might have to pass through as a result of losing a pet, friend, family member, job, or even moving.

Home children, too, lived through being untimely ripped from their roots and we are only now coming to grips with what they went through. Their experience perhaps enables us to better estimate the rough, perhaps life-long emotional journey which those who survived a similar but far more horrific, sudden and devastating Asian tsunami will long endure. Yes! There were 'survivors', but the event should remind us that the 'survivors', like the home children who 'survived', are, and will also long be, 'victims' of the effects of loss and separation.

We pray that the lessons learned from our little immigrants' experiences will somehow assist today's professionals to enable most of the earthquake and tsunami 'surviving victims' to better cope with what they must now go through. We pray too that those who cannot have such help, like our Home Children, will somehow overcome.

Dave

Of things to come at home and abroad in 2005

Normally as a New Year breaks, we look back on the old and ahead to the new. Readers are referred to our last UPDATE which gave a summary of 2004 events until the last half of the year.

- a) Since then we have made smooth the way for our involvement in 2005. We have
 - played host to four different overseas visitors connected with home children;
 - addressed national groups in Montreal: *Historica* and the *Association for Canadian Studies*;
 - arranged for the 'rescue' and return 'home' to Renfrew of the Federal Government's Parks Canada display on Home Children;
 - been involved in assisting scholars in the UK and USA and a TV producer in Canada to research and tell the home child story as it really happened;
 - welcomed two new HC branches - Cecil Verge's in NS and Jerrel Hind's in Chatham, ON.
- b) 2005 is the 100th Anniversary of the deaths of Fr James Nugent and Thomas Barnardo, pioneers in British child migration. We have been asked to write an article or two for a UK publication to commemorate the former. If all goes well we shall also refurbish the cemetery plots in Ottawa East (Vanier) where so many home children lie in unmarked graves.
- c) We shall host the UK's Peter Silk on his Canadian trip and assist him in our efforts with Howard Stutt to honour the memory of Home Boy Claude Nunney, V.C.

Minister of Canadian Heritage and
Minister responsible for Status of Women



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien et
ministre responsable de la Condition féminine

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5



Greetings to all those taking part in
**Home Children Canada's Annual
General Meeting.**

Mes meilleurs vœux à tous ceux et
celles qui prennent part à
**l'assemblée générale annuelle de
Home Children Canada.**

History can be a wonderful teacher.
However, if we are to draw lessons from our
past, we must learn about all of its aspects,
both good and bad. The Parks Canada exhibit
that has toured Canada for the past five years
has helped raise awareness of Canada's "little
immigrants." These immigrants and their
descendants overcame personal tragedy and
many hardships to become active Canadian
citizens.

L'histoire peut nous enseigner beaucoup de
choses. Toutefois, pour tirer des
enseignements de notre passé, nous devons
tenir compte de tous ses aspects, qu'ils soient
bons ou mauvais. L'exposition de Parcs
Canada, qui a été présentée dans tout le pays
au cours des cinq dernières années, a permis
de faire connaître les « petits immigrés
anglais » du Canada. Ces immigrants et leurs
descendants ont vécu une tragédie personnelle
et ont surmonté de nombreuses difficultés
pour devenir des citoyens canadiens actifs.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage and
Minister Responsible for Status of Women,
I join you in celebrating the return of Home
Children artifacts to Renfrew. The stories they
tell are part of our collective history, and I am
grateful for the efforts of everyone at Home
Children Canada to preserve them.

À titre de ministre du Patrimoine canadien et
ministre responsable de la Condition
féminine, je me joins à vous pour applaudir le
retour à Renfrew des artefacts des petits
immigrés. Les souvenirs qu'ils évoquent font
partie de notre histoire collective, et je suis
reconnaissante des efforts que déploie Home
Children Canada pour les préserver.

I wish you a productive and enjoyable
meeting.

Je souhaite que votre réunion soit agréable et
enrichissante.

Liza Frulla

Canada



Help! Is This a Home Child's trunk?

Fifty or more UK agencies sent children abroad. Some issued trunks; others did not. Ivy Sucee, our branch chair in Peterborough, has asked us if you can identify the agency that *might* have sent a child with this trunk. A local gentleman brought it to her thinking it may have been a Barnardo trunk because *"father always had lads from that agency"*. Ivy writes: *"The outside is a very stiff material - maybe a cloth. It is grey-brown, L - 22"; W - 14"; H - 6". The top goes over and completely covers the sides. There are brown leather handles on the top and corners."* It is like no other trunk that we have ever seen. But we have not seen them all. So we need your help. If you can identify a trunk such as this, please contact the editor.



A miracle, divine intervention, blind luck or sheer serendipity?

John Sayers and Home Boy Art MONK have known of each other for years, have met at reunions but never actually chatted until they sat at the same Home Child table at the 25th Anniversary celebrations of ISS-C (International Social Service - Canada) in Ottawa in December. John later delivered some info he had discovered at the Archives to Art in Beachburg and was shown some of Art's records. John, himself a post WW II British immigrant, was surprised to note that his wife Ivy had actually been working in St Helen's Hospital in Essex when Art's mother died there. He was shocked when he realized Art's grandmother was his own grandmother's sister.

Arthur, John and Ivy were cousins!

In Memoriam: Home Boy Harry WADE, age 94, on Nov 25, 2004.