

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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## **SURVIVING DIONNE QUINTUPLETS ENDORSE NATIONAL MULTIPLE-BIRTHS AWARENESS DAY**

**WASAGA BEACH** – Annette and Cécile Dionne, the surviving Dionne quintuplets, are supporting the efforts of Multiple Births Canada/Naissances multiples Canada (MBC/NMC) in launching the annual celebration of National Multiple Births Awareness Day.

In a statement issued to MBC, the world-renowned multiples endorsed the need for more public education regarding the challenges faced by multiple-birth individuals and their families. Those unique needs include exceptional physical demands placed on parents, bonding obstacles with co-multiples, siblings and parents, and the balance of individuality within the multiple-birth relationship. “We encourage all Canadians to become more aware of the social support systems available to this unique community. Further, we believe current EI payments don’t address the needs of multiple-birth families, consequently we’d like to encourage dialogue for change,” state Annette and Cécile Dionne.

National Multiple Births Awareness Day will be celebrated at the Dionne Quints Museum, North Bay, Ontario on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The date is significant as the Dionne quintuplets were born on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The location is also important because the museum has already played a vital role in the public education of multiple-birth issues.

MBC is hosting National Multiple Births Awareness Day as part its 2005 National Volunteer Development Retreat ‘Back to Basics.’ This three-day event takes place May 27-29 at the Canadian Ecology Centre, Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park, just 40 minutes from the Dionne Quints Museum. Workshops and training sessions for MBC volunteers at both chapter and national levels will be delivered to delegates from across Canada. Hands on experiences to develop leadership and teambuilding skills will strengthen the volunteer base thereby improving the delivery of support to the multiple-birth community. For detailed information on MBC, National Multiple Births Awareness Day and ‘Back to Basics’ visit [www.multiplebirthscanada.org](http://www.multiplebirthscanada.org)

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