

Connecting MBC, Chapters, Volunteers and Members

Message from the Chair Sheila Catto



It has been a busy summer for MBC Board members, and our work is accelerating this fall. I look forward to finishing MBC's application to become a Registered Charity, our top priority since last fall. We have a few final details to sort out, and many supporting documents to be attached to show MBC's long history of education and support to multiple-birth families. It's been a long and challenging process, but we feel that our application is very strong. Many thanks to our lawyer Kevin Fritz (Wilbeoer Dellelce LLP) for his continued support and work on the MBC charitable application. We know that it may take six months to receive a response from the Canada Revenue Agency, so we expect to wait until next spring to find out whether our organization will become a registered charity.

I'm excited about meeting with many MBC members in Windsor soon, seeing old friends and, I hope, making new ones. The plans for the Conference sound wonderful. The Board has lots of work to do in planning for the Annual General Meeting and Chapter Exchange workshops, and special meetings for the Support Networks, the MADA awards presentations and more. It's going to be very busy and rewarding three days of learning, networking and celebrations.

This summer I spent quite a bit of time editing and reviewing the nine new Fact Sheets to be introduced at the Conference. Many thanks to Donna Launslager, Lynda Haddon, Jenna Kelland and all the Health and Education committee, and to a number of national volunteers and advisory Board members for their review and input. Each publication has been through many drafts and reviews, and they are going to be excellent resources for multiple-birth families.

Our newest Board member Sean Wilde has assisted in interpreting

MBC Board and Volunteers

Officers

Chair, Sheila Catto
Past Chair, Gail Moore
Secretary, Lynn Stadler
Treasurer, Shirley Combden

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Board of Directors

Director of Support Services, Sheila Catto
Director of Finance, Shirley Combden
Director, Lori Oldfield
Director, Lynn Stadler
Director, Sean Wilde
Director of Volunteer Management, VACANT

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Business Office

Acting Executive Director, Kimberley Weatherall

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Committee Chair Persons & National Volunteers

Advocacy Coordinator, Gail Moore
Breastfeeding Support Network Chair, Lynda P. Haddon
Clothing Sale Updates
Communications Coordinator, Jennifer Schultz
2011 Conference Committee
Health and Education Committee Chair, Donna Launslager
Father Support Network Chair, Eric Novak
Francophone Support Network Chair, Murielle Dietrich
HOM Support Network Chair, Vanessa Luce
LGBTQ Support Network Chair, Tania Zulkoskey
Lone Parenting Network Chair, Melissa Wray
Loss Support Network Chair, Lynda P. Haddon
Making a Difference Awards, Lynn Stadler-Hawkins
Multiple Moments Book Reviewer, Kim Skublics
Multiple Moments Editor, Jennifer Schultz
National Multiple Births Awareness Day Coordinator, Gail Moore
Research Coordinator, Jenna Kelland
Special Needs Support Network Chair, Theresa Sanders
Volunteer Coordinator, VACANT (Kim Weatherall, Acting)
Webmaster, Lori & D'Arcy Oldfield
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our new bylaws, and is starting a review of the Board policies and procedures to ensure they are up to date and match MBC's objectives. Thanks Sean!

We always need more volunteer help with the work we're doing at the National level. We have many plans for educational publications, programs, website content and new ways of networking and supporting our members – but each volunteer has only so much time available. Some of our hoped-for projects have to be put on the back burner until we find more volunteers to help. Many hands make light work! Please contact Kim if you have an interest in helping MBC work, grow, and support multiple-birth families across Canada

Contact Sheila at sheila.catto@multiplebirthscanada.org



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Messages from Board Members

Lynn Stadler

Has it been a year already? Hard to believe but it's been a whirlwind of a year since, at the Edmonton Conference, I signed on to be on the Board of this fabulous organization! My family has been evolving, major changes have been taking place in our work lives and the kids just keep on growing! I still feel like a "newbie" on the board and I am still working on getting up to speed with all the items we are working on. As Sheila and the other board members have pointed out, there are a lot of projects "on the go" here at MBC!

As Chair of the MADA awards I truly do believe that volunteers make the world go around! I have met so many wonderful, giving people through helping out MBC with this worthy task! Recognition for volunteers is an amazing way to thank so many people for giving their time and passion to the multiple births community.

In order for me to move on with other duties for MBC, we really need a volunteer to take over the MADA Chair role. We are looking for a person who can be available to organize a selection committee, receive the nominations, communicate with the committee and the MBC board, prepare a presentation and if possible, attend the annual conference to present the awards and follow up with a report. Most of this is already set up and just needs someone to accept the challenge and take over or perhaps even just accept some of the duties! If you think you might be that person, please contact me or anyone on the MBC board for more information! makingadifference@multiplebirthscanada.org. In the meantime, I look forward to meeting up with old friends and new ones at the 2011 Conference in Windsor!

Lori Oldfield

Since becoming a member of the Board, almost a year ago, I have taken a back seat to learn the ropes and get a handle on the regular communication. Over the last few months I have found my footing and have started to take a more active role on the Board.

Some of the areas that we regularly work on are monitoring email and reviewing documents; assisting in the editing and proof reading of IC's, Report from National, Multiple Moments articles and meeting minutes for approval. Along with the normal editing we are also providing input and assisting in the completion and editing of documents for the Charitable Status application. Throughout the year I have continued working on the current MBC website to keep information as up to date as possible; assisting Kim in posting and editing new and current discounts and advertising, and keeping links up to date and posting all documents that are sent out to members.

Over the last month I have started a few new tasks in getting the information sharing and updating of the website into a more current technology status. At the Special Meeting of Members in March, I took possession of a donated server, to see if it is in working order, which it was. Just recently I have begun backing up our files from

the web server and begun the process of setting up remote access for all board members. This will allow us all a safe central location to store and access new and old documents. On the website side, I am working to changing over the current site to a WordPress based site to make updating and adding to the site more accessible for non-computer programming volunteers (not just those with background with websites).

Lastly we are all working on our parts for the 2011 AGM and Conference in Windsor and prepping all needed items. One of my jobs is creating the presentation to announce the location of the 2012 Chapter and Volunteer Development Retreat. I look forward to seeing everyone in Windsor!

Shirley Comben

It has been a busy couple of months since our last report, and amazingly enough almost a year has passed since I joined the MBC Board. While this year has been very busy learning the ropes, and at many times having to reread documents to ensure I was not missing something, it has been a most rewarding experience. I have worked with some great people and certainly learned a few things along the way.

In addition to keeping busy with various documents and emails, I have been working on the year-end Financial Report to be presented at the Annual General Meeting in October. Additionally I have worked with the board on the creation of the 2011-2012 operating budget. The Charitable Status Application required some financial details to be included which also sent me in a number crunching frenzy – hopefully a success. However amidst all of this, my family and I were able to fit in some much needed vacation time during August and headed south on a cruise. It was absolutely fantastic and the children were the perfect age for such an adventure.

I am excited to be attending the 2011 Conference in Windsor as it promises to be a great weekend of learning, fun and new friendships.

Message from Acting Executive Director Kim Weatherall



Where did the summer go!? I thought the summer would be a time of catching up and getting organized – I was so wrong! With Board Members and Volunteers across Canada taking holidays, one would have thought there would be a "less hectic" time to catch up – but no, it seems to only have gotten busier!



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At the time of writing this update I am working with others to finalize the Charitable Status Application, this Report From National, pieces for Multiple Moments magazine (e.g. confirming advertisers, preparing pieces and reviewing others), an Information Circular for Chapter Executives, creating the Annual Report and finalizing plans/work for the 2011 AGM and Conference (including AGM Documents, MBC Sessions and helping to secure donations to assist the Committee).

Some of my time over the last few months has been dedicated to working with the corporate sector looking for sponsors and donors for the 2011 Conference, as well as expanding and publicizing our national discounts and Affiliate Programs through Facebook, Multiple Moments and on our website (with the help of Lori Oldfield).

Work continues to progress on the Charitable Status application with the most important pieces now completed and approved. A few additional pieces that will accompany the document as support for our application are now in the process of being completed. The expected date for it to be submitted is now September 30, 2011.

Time was spent in August looking towards the 2012 AGM and Conference, researching potential locations and receiving bids/quotes to help the Board approve plans. A location, plans and a budget are nearing finalization, with a planned announcement scheduled during the 2011 AGM in Windsor.

Over the last couple of months MBC has continued to receive inquiries each week from expectant parents looking for support and referrals to Chapters (Ottawa, Durham, Brampton and Newmarket) and non-member groups or areas without support groups (Toronto, Montreal, Niagara Falls); and families looking for more information on EI and parental leave options. In addition there continue to be professionals looking for information to offer to new parents of multiples (e.g. HR Assistance programs, Doulas), and individuals (Kingston, ON) or groups looking to form MBC Chapters. There are also regular inquiries from Chapter volunteers looking for guidance and information on a variety of topics and letters of support where needed.

Over the next few months my time will be focused on follow up from the 2011 Conference, preparing for the 2012 conference, catching up in areas that have may have fallen to the side during this busy time, and preparing for the day we hear that our Charitable Status is confirmed! Of course there are many other tasks and projects that are still unknown that will make for a very busy and interesting fall.

Welcome back to all those who are volunteering for Multiple Births Canada, Chapters or other multiple-birth organizations – whether you are a new volunteer or starting out this year in a brand new position – remember that MBC is here to help you in whatever way we can.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please free to call me at the office or to contact me through email at:

kimberley.weatherall@multiplebirthscanada.org

New and Updated Fact Sheets - Coming Soon!

The Health and Education Committee have worked long and hard this spring and summer to produce nine new or updated Fact Sheet titles, wonderful additions to our publications library. We will be proud to launch these publications in October at the national Conference, when they will be available on the MBC website.

- Risks of a Multiple Pregnancy – To Mother (updated)
- Risks of a Multiple Pregnancy – To Babies (new)
- Risks of a Multiple Pregnancy – Reducing the Risks (new)
- Challenges of Parenting Multiples:
 - Twins and Higher Order Multiples (new)
- Challenges of Parenting Multiples:
 - Strengthening Your Couple Relationship (new)
- Biology of Multiples (updated)
- Risks of a Multiple Pregnancy: Monochorionic Multiple
- Pregnancy and Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (updated)
- Multiple Birth Facts and Figures (updated)
- Loss – Memorial Ideas (updated)

2012 AGM and Conference Announcement

Multiple Births Canada would like to announce that the 2012 Volunteer Development Retreat will be hosted by the MBC Board, Office and National Volunteers. Stay tuned for more information on location and dates. Details will be announced during the 2011 AGM and Conference in Windsor, with follow up in an Information Circular email following the Conference.

Call for 2013 and 2014 Hosts for the Conference

With plans now in place for the 2012 AGM and Conference, MBC is now looking for Host Chapters to consider hosting the 2013 or 2014 AGM and Conferences. National conferences do not have to be extravagant affairs – simple is good! What matters most is that we bring volunteers and parents together to share and learn from one another. We are open to ideas and proposals for what that might look like in your community – feel free to share these ideas with us as quickly as possible!

Please contact Kim at office@multiplebirthscanada.org.



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Call for Volunteers

MBC NEEDS YOU! Multiple Births Canada is in need of many more volunteers at the national level to ensure that programs, resources and support are offered to multiple-birth individuals, families and organizations across Canada. We are a community that is growing quickly and with that comes additional need for support! We need you to consider the following list of the most urgently needed volunteers and step forward to offer your support in any way you can. There is much work to be done and we can only achieve it with your help. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know what your skills, background and interests are; we will be sure to find something for you to contribute to, if what you see listed is not 100% what you are interested in doing.

For more opportunities visit our Volunteer Opportunities page on the MBC website and contact Kimberley Weatherall at office@multiplebirthscanada.org with questions or your offer to join our team!

Chapter Support Network Chair (NEW Position): Working with the Director of Support Services and the Acting Executive Director, this position will oversee Chapter Development, respond to Chapter related questions and liaise with Chapters on a regular basis. This position is a new position and is rather urgent, as MBC has a number of new groups looking to become an Affiliate Chapter of MBC and needing care and guidance from an experienced Chapter Volunteer.

Volunteer Coordinator(s): The role of Volunteer Coordinator is an essential one for our national organization. MBC is looking for someone (or maybe two to share the role) with experience working with volunteers in a coordination role to oversee recruitment, ongoing orientation and training, creation of appropriate position descriptions and tracking national volunteers' progress, and providing ongoing and annual recognition.

National Multiple Births Awareness Day Coordinator: With direction from the Acting Executive Director and the MBC Board of Directors, this person will lead and deliver this important national awareness event. MBC is looking for someone who has experience in media relations and strong writing skills. The responsibilities of this position could be shared by more than one person, and include developing a communications plan, producing the media kit and distributing it to the media, evaluating media coverage and measuring results. This is a time-specific position from January to June each year. Ideally the new Volunteer should be in place in the early fall 2011 to begin planning for 2012.

Making a Difference Chair: The Making a Difference Awards Committee Chair position is a good entry position to volunteering with MBC. The time commitment is minimal throughout the year. In the months leading up to the Annual Conference the responsibilities include advertising for nominations, coordinating the MADA committee to review and choose winners in 6 categories; and preparing for the presentation of the awards during the Conference.

MBC Partnerships

Assisted Human Reproduction Canada (AHRC)

Thanks to the hard work of Donna Launslager and her team of volunteers, the Fact Sheet Project was completed over the summer. These publications will be included with MBC's Charitable Status application, and will be launched officially during the AGM at the 2011 Conference. The content of the Fact Sheets was commissioned by AHRC as a basis for a new publication to be completed in the future. The first step will be to use this information in the further development of the multiple-birth patient component of the AHRC website, to help all those patients who are considering assisted human reproduction to understand the risks associated with multiple births. In the late fall the AHRC's Patient Committee will meet in Ottawa, with Kim Weatherall representing Multiple Births Canada.

ICOMBO and ISTS



The International Society for Twin Studies (ISTS) has recently launched their conference website for the 2012 Congress in Italy. The 14th Congress will be held in conjunction with the 2nd World Congress on Twin Pregnancy – A Global Perspective. It will be held in Florence Italy from April 1st – 4th, 2012.

The International Council of Multiple Birth Organizations (ICOMBO) will hold its biennial Meetings during the Congress that will include delegates from many national multiple-birth organizations worldwide.

Over the last few months the ICOMBO Board has been working to approve the final version of the new ICOMBO logo and branding to be used on the website. The website is being redesigned and will be re-launched over the next few months. The work on the branding and logo has been completed here in Canada by Harold Sikkema – a Visual Artist - <http://nsitu.ca>. The ICOMBO Board is now working to arrange the meeting sessions during the Congress in Italy. ICOMBO has recently approved the content for a survey that will be sent to all national organizations looking at a variety of important questions to inform the work and sharing amongst countries in the future. This work has been done in partnership with the Research Team of the National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs (NOMOTC). For more information about ICOMBO or ISTS please contact Kimberley Weatherall at chair@icombo.org