

REPORT FROM NATIONAL

THE PARENTS OF MULTIPLE BIRTHS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR MULTIPLE BIRTH FAMILIES



July 2000

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MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT, POMBA CANADA

I am so very pleased to announce the membership support of the new corporation, duly voted in at this past Annual Convention. Once the government officially approves the application for incorporation, POMBA Canada will become Multiple Births Canada, and will operate under the new bylaws that were approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting. The past board worked very hard on the documents and is thrilled with the show of member support. At the Annual General Meeting we celebrated by sporting the new logo and name on T-shirts! Our generous thanks to all of you for your show of support.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to those individual dedicated volunteers whose commitment, stamina and sense of humor is so vital to the success of the accomplishments over this past year, the successes and accomplishments speak for themselves.

At this year's convention the following volunteers were publicly acknowledged and presented with a gift of appreciation.

Our dedicated book reviewer, Diane Rychlinksi, who read a variety of books and presented book reviews in Double Feature/Multiple Moments for the past two years.

Our Single Parent Registry Chairperson, Becky, who was busy this past year with revising the Single Parent booklet and the development of a Single Parents Information Kit. Becky has been a delight to work with, always positive, energetic and willing to share her knowledge of single parenting multiples with others in similar situations.

A special thanks to Donna Launslager and Diane Myers, who continue to be supportive and active in the multiple birth community. They actively participated in the planning of the Volunteer Leadership Development Workshop and the Canadian Multiple Birth Program.

The Board this past term has consisted of only four directors. My three co-horts have done an amazing job this term and I could not be more proud of the accomplishments of a small handful of volunteers.

Lynda P. Haddon, handled a variety of tasks that included the Loss Registry, Past President duties, Health &

Education Director, Liaison with other organizations and the media, handling referrals and providing strong support for the business office.

Carrie, our very dearly appreciated Publications Director, Multiple Moments Editor, Typesetter, Layout, Advertising & Distribution Manager and Webmaster Extrordinaire! Carrie has dedicated so much of herself to her position this year and we are truly grateful for her commitment to multiple births and the membership of this organization.

The board Social conveyor, Kim - who has tried very hard to put the FUN back into Fundraising! This position is extremely challenging, and so much research has been done this term on finding funding sources, and yet, there is much more to do. Kim has also been the Convention Liaison, handling details and arrangements for the Board, plus always willing to pick up the stray jobs and keep us giggling, even when times get a bit rough.

It is indeed my pleasure to say thank you to my fellow directors - it has been wonderful to work with others that are focused on the same goals dedicated to multiple births. We have enjoyed respect for each other's opinions, and at times even, encountered healthy conflict. I cannot tell you how much it has meant to me these past months to have these three women as a strong support system in place to depend on, especially when things seemed difficult and challenging. Thank you so very much ladies.

Multiple thanks to our gracious hosts, Kathy & Diane and their team of volunteers and the Niagara Region POMBA club. Their dedication in planning a fabulous convention weekend was very much appreciated by the board and delegates. It truly was a wonderful convention and super enjoyable weekend - one of the very best I have had the pleasure to attend!

Last, but not least, on behalf of the board, I want to say thank you for the support that was behind us this past year. You all know who you are - it was greatly appreciated and gave us the courage and will to continue to work for multiple births.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the new Board, duly elected and appointed and pass over the leadership of

this organization to this group of volunteers who will continue to work towards fulfilling the mission and putting in place a strong structure for Multiple Births Canada.

The future success of Multiple Births Canada will be dependent on working together with the members of the affiliate clubs, associates and members at large, on our common mission "improving the quality of life for multiple birth families in Canada."

*Respectfully submitted by
Bonnie Schultz, Past President*

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS

Carrie Johnston returns for a second year as a Director for POMBA Canada. Carrie is the mother to Hannah (13), Duncan (7), Paige (3) and Ryan (3) and wife to David. Carrie's background includes work in the publishing field with the Department of Education in Nova Scotia along with several years of administrative experience. Carrie was also employed as an assistant to the Regional Cadet Music Advisor in Victoria BC where she was involved in planning and implementing music training programs for Cadet musicians across the country.

Carrie's involvement with POMBA has become a family affair. With her mother-in-law Jacqueline Johnston a Past President, there has been a great deal of involvement by the Johnston clan. This involvement also includes her father-in-law Ralph's design of the POMBA leaf logo you see today. This would all lead you to believe that Jacqueline & Ralph may have had multiples. David, Carrie's husband is an identical twin. His twin brother Jeff currently resides in Petewawa, Ontario. Both David and Jeff are in the military. David & Jeff's older sister Leanne presently lives in St. Julien, France and is expecting her first baby in October.

Carrie's other activities include involvement with her local POMBA club as immediate Past-President, working with a local Air Cadet Squadron, sitting on various committees as work and occasionally lending a hand with her son Duncan's Beaver activities (Dad is a Beaver Leader, when he's not at sea with the Navy)

DIRECTOR OF FUND DEVELOPMENT

Kim Weatherall resides in Ottawa with her husband Steve, and twin daughters Kristin and Stephanie. She has been a member of the Ottawa Twins' Parents Association since before the birth of her daughters and has held many different Executive positions within the organization since shortly after giving birth almost 13 years ago. Some positions held while she was on the Ottawa Executive: Sale Coordinator, Librarian, Discount List Coordinator and she currently holds the position of Christmas Hamper Coordinator.

Kim is currently the Director of Fund Development for POMBA Canada and has held this position (previously called Funding Director) for the last two years along with being the Convention Liaison and "unofficially" the Social Director for the POMBA Board of Directors meetings and social events this past year. She is currently involved in the preparation of the application to achieve Charitable Status and in the future development of Multiple Births Canada, its new structure, by-laws and new public image.

In her "spare time" Kim is employed by the Faculty of Education, Professional Development Programs, at the University of Ottawa.

BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

Bonnie Schultz is presently the Business Services Manager for POMBA Canada. Bonnie has a Bachelor of Education, Art Major from the University of Calgary, 1982. Bonnie has held the role of Loaned Representative for the United Way Campaign, 1992 & 1993, representing Interprovincial Pipeline. Her past experience also include Assistant Librarian for Husky Oil, 1973-1975 and work with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce as a file clerk and telephone operator from 1975 to 1977

Bonnie's past volunteer experience includes the positions of Secretary, President of Calgary POMBA and Convention Chairperson for the POMBA Convention 1989; President and Business Services Manager for POMBA

VOLUNTEER Job Postings

Advertising personnel required. From drafting letters, making phone calls, following up on leads, tracking customer profiles. Volunteers are needed to comprise an Advertising Subcommittee to work with the Publications Team in selling advertising space in Multiple Moments and on the website.

POMBA Canada's book project, "Multiple Messages" is in need of assistance in typing and preparing various parts of the manuscript for printing. If you have a computer, can type (doesn't matter how fast) and have a few free minutes here and there, we could use your help.

Contact the Publications Chairperson, Carrie Johnston to volunteer: publications@pomba.org

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Canada; Chair of the Parent-Teacher Association, Edmonton; and Companion to an Alzheimer patient, Calgary.

Bonnie has been married for 27 years to Jim, Vice President of Operations & Engineering, Enbridge Consumer Gas, Toronto. Bonnie & Jim have four daughters: Jaime (23) Accountant, Aurora; Christina (19) Massage Therapist, Calgary; Jacqueline & Jennifer, 16 year old monozygotic twins, and we can't forget Tigger!!

Editor's note: Bonnie's experience working in volunteer organizations has been instrumental in the continued success of POMBA Canada. The editor would like to recognize Bonnie's most recent position of President 1999-2000 and thank her for her continued dedication, professionalism and support. Her continued guidance is valuable in every aspect.

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Donna Launslager, her husband David, and their five children live in Waterloo, Ontario. Since the birth of their quadruplets in March 1985, she has learned the outer limits of one's capacity to parent and to gratefully accept help from many sources. Experiencing the overwhelming physical, emotional and financial stresses of raising quadruplets with little community support, roused a deep concern for the lack of awareness of multiple-birth issues among service providers, government and the general public. In an effort to evoke change in this area, she became the Health & Education Director for the Parents of Multiple Births Association of Canada (POMBA Canada) until 1996. Enkindling service provider and government appreciation for the unique needs of multiple birth children and their families has become her mission.

In 1991 she produced and launched POMBA Canada's Multiple-Birth Awareness Program, Canada's only health promotion program with the specific goal of reducing the incidence of prematurity and low birth-weight among multiple-birth infants.

She was responsible for coordinating a research study of the met and unmet prenatal needs of Southwestern Ontario women expecting twins, triplets and higher order multiples, from 1993-1994.

She represented POMBA Canada in a number of government initiatives, including the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, Best Start - Community Action for Healthy Babies, and the Canadian

Low Birth-Weight and Prematurity Prevention Coalition. She presently serves as a member of the Canadian Coalition for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities.

She is especially interested in the role of peer support organizations in community development and health promotion initiatives and is presently coordinating the Canadian Multiple Birth Initiative (CMBI). The CMBI is part of a national strategic plan which aims to enable Canadian families, and those of the future, to give birth and raise healthy multiple birth children in an environment that supports their unique needs. This initiative addresses a wide range of issues related to all stages of development, preconception, prenatal to subsequent childhood years, with a primary focus on strengthening peer and professional support for twins and higher order multiples and their families.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Chris Niebler has recently moved to Stratford from Guelph, Ontario with his wife Jeanette and their wonderful children (autistic triplets) Rachel, Kirsten, and Dylan. Chris is no stranger to the world of multiples himself as he is a fraternal twin.

Although Chris has not held any executive office in POMBA before, he has a lot of experience from his University days when he was External Commissioner for the Central Students Association as well as being a Board of Governor for the University of Guelph. Through his involvement with the Canadian Federation of Students, Chris has extensive knowledge on how a Canadian wide organization can work together to support each other and work towards shared goals.

DIRECTOR OF CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Diane Myers is the mom to six children - Craig 11, Alison 10, Harrison 10, Jessica 10, Kenny 10 and Mac 7. Diane has been involved in the world of multiple births since her quadruplet pregnancy was diagnosed in 1990. When she began her search for resources, she came upon the Triplets, Quads & Quints Association (TQQ).

As President of TQQ for five years, Diane began to realize the varying needs and lack of resources for all multiple birth families across Canada. There is so much to be done in Canada for multiple birth individuals and their families - working together will make the difference!

Diane's educational and before children life was concentrated in the area of children and adults with special needs - this background has come in handy since two of her children have been labelled "special needs". Currently, she work with the Family Education Centre as a group facilitator leading parenting courses and workshops.

Her passions include her kids, her husband, dogs, righting the world of wrongs, and sitting on the dock with a cool drink on a wonderful long hot summer day!

DIRECTOR of Individual/Family SERVICES

Lynda P. Haddon has been a member of The Ottawa Twins' Parents' Association for 18+ years. She has held many positions on their Executive, including 3 years as President. She continues to provide bereavement support and is a co-facilitator of the Multiple Birth Expectation Classes which are held 4 to 5 times a year (3-night sessions each time).

She has been involved at the national level for around 8 years, and has held several positions including Registry Director, First Vice President and, for the past 6 years has been Chair of the Loss Registry. She puts together a quarterly newsletter, Forever Angels, which has just published it's 25th Edition! She is also a Past President of POMBA.

She is a member of several Committees representing Multiple Birth in Ottawa, including Low Birth Weight Prevention Committee, Prenatal Community Committee, General Hospital Bereavement Committee, Canadian Coalition for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities. She is a member of the Advisory Boards of Sidelines Canada (an organization that assists those families experiencing difficult pregnancies) and CLIMB (Center for Loss In Multiple Birth).

In her 'spare' time, she runs the Gift Shop at her Synagogue and attends at the local Seniors' Home for special occasions to help out. She is also part of a group of women knitting comforters as surprise gifts for the residents when they move to their new facility in October, 2000. She has just given up the position of Coordinator of a 110-house Neighbourhood Watch program which she held for four years.

Her singleton daughter, Shayna, is 19 and has just completed her first year at York University in Toronto and her 17-year old dizygotic twin daughters, Emily and Holly, are entering Grade 13. Her husband, Arthur, is a Psychoanalyst/Training Analyst in private practice.

DIRECTOR of FINANCE

Jennifer Thurton has joined the Board of Directors for 2000-2001 with a different perspective than most. With new membership criteria, the doors were opened for people with a keen interest in helping POMBA achieve its goals, like Jennifer, to join. She has no children, but spends as much time as she can with her 10 nieces and nephews.

Jennifer's professional background is in finance. She was employed by CCH Canadian Limited for more than 10 years as their Director of Finance, providing financial leadership and expertise to this legal publisher. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, from St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia.

Saturday mornings – weather permitting - find Jennifer scouring her neighbourhood garage sales for those elusive treasures. That, and her passion for antique paper collectibles, keep her home storage-challenged with a constant need to have a garage sale. Jennifer was quick to dive into the financial needs of POMBA Canada. Welcome aboard Jennifer!

DIRECTOR of RESEARCH

Cathy Barr and her husband Rob joined the Guelph Parents of Twins and Triplets Club two weeks after finding out that they were expecting twins. Those twins - identical boys named Conor and Liam - are now six years old. Over the past six years, Cathy has held several positions on the Executive of the Guelph Club, including Publicity Director, Vice-President and President. During that time, she developed the Club's first membership package, conducted a survey of Club members, and oversaw a variety of other changes as the Club increased its membership and moved towards becoming a more service-oriented organization.

One of the most significant changes for the Guelph Club was that, in 1999, they became members POMBA. Shortly after her Club joined POMBA, Cathy volunteered to assist the national organization with research. At the request of the Board of Directors, she reviewed and revised a survey that was distributed at the 1999 Convention in Calgary. Later, she reviewed and revised the Grandparents Survey, which was published in the Spring 2000 issue of Multiple Moments and on the website. She also wrote a series of three articles on zygosity testing, which were published last year in Multiple Moments.

Cathy holds a B.A. and an M.A. in political science and this fall she will receive her Ph.D., also in political science. Before having children, she taught full-time in the Political Science Department at Wilfrid Laurier University

in Waterloo. Following the birth of her twins, she continued to teach part-time, while working to finish her Ph.D. thesis. With her thesis now completed and her children entering Grade 1 in the fall, she has recently returned to full-time employment at W.L.U.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

The Officers of the Board are elected from among the Directors of the organization. The following are the elected Officers of the Board for the 2000-2001 year

President - Carrie Johnston
 Vice President/Vice Chairperson - Kim Weatherall
 Vice President - Cathy Barr
 Vice President - Diane Myers
 Chairperson - Chris Niebler
 Secretary - Bonnie Schultz
 Assistant Secretary - Jeanette Niebler
 Treasurer - Jennifer Thurton

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

POMBA Canada would like to thank all the volunteers that have come forward in the past few months. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated. If you have offered your services, but have not yet received a definitive reply, please don't feel that we don't need you. It may just be that we don't have a specific task in the areas you have offered your help.

We are still actively recruiting more volunteers in a variety of areas and we would be happy to have you contact us again, especially if you would like to more about other areas than what you've originally volunteered for.

Watch for "job" postings in RFN and our website!

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

The 28th Australian Multiple Birth Association Convention, August 11-14th, 2000. Full Registration \$200.00. Hosted by the South Australian Multiple Birth Association at the Lakes Resort Hotel. For further details contact Joan Walden (08)8264-5930 or Jan Berminghad (08)8264-5215

Millennium Multiples. 20th New Zealand Multiple Birth Association Conference, September 29 - October 1, 2000 Woodford House, Havelock North, Hawke's Bay Registration forms are now available from Anne Corney, acorney@eit.ac.nz or contact the business office for further information about this conference.

THANK YOU!

POMBA Canada would like to take the opportunity to thank the following companies and individuals for their contributions and helping make Convention 2000 a success

- Theresa Cressatti for filling in as Secretary for the Plenary Session and Annual General Meeting at Convention.
- Dave Walters for moderating the Annual General Meeting, May 6, 2000
- Elizabeth Pratt for her bookkeeping assistance over the last year and for attending the Annual General Meeting to assist the Board in answering financial questions

POMBA would like to thank the following companies for their donations of items to the Convention:

- Canadian Living
- Mars Fundraising
- World's Finest Chocolates
- Sunsweet Fundraising
- Entertainment Canada
- Homespun Enterprises
- Top Profits Fundraising
- Lynda Haddon
- Terry Haddon
- Bonnie Schultz
- Kim Weatherall
- TQQ for their participation in the Mars Fundraising project where half their profits went to POMBA Canada. Thank you to Diane Myers for helping set this up.
- Theresa Cressatti (Newmarket) and Kelli-jo Losier (Kitchener-Waterloo) for doing a fabulous job selling 50/50 tickets at Convention.
- Kelli-Jo Losier (Kitchener-Waterloo) for selling World's Finest Chocolates at Convention
- Bev Ungar and assistants (TQQ) for selling Club Z tickets
- Kristin and Stephanie Weatherall for putting all the keychains together in record time
- Becky Burrell for her assistance with the POMBA table in the Resource Centre.
- Cathy Barr and Sherry Williams for their assistance with the Annual General Meeting registration
- Sherry Williams for her assistance in assembling club packages during the Board meeting Thursday

Thank you, continued from page 5.....

- Bonnie Schultz for providing embroidered covers for the plaques and awards presented at Convention and for providing prototype t-shirts presenting the proposed new logo
- All the members of the Convention 2000 Host Committee for the fantastic job they did in organizing Convention 2000. It was an overwhelming success and a lot of hard work went into this event. Job well done
- Mississauga POMBA for sponsoring the Resource Centre for Convention 2000

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS

The Board of Directors requests your assistance in identifying and honoring our multiple birth communities best. Those people in your community or association who may deserve the honor and awards that the Board of Directors presents on behalf of a grateful National organization.

Individuals from all parts of our multiple birth membership are eligible for these honors and awards, but first their peers must nominate them. Many candidates are little known outside of their own multiple birth communities. To recognize their contributions nationally, we depend on people who know and appreciate their worth to forward their names for consideration.

Members of clubs, associates, parents and Advisory Board can play a special role in this process. Your familiarity with the attainments of your members may indicate whether one of them merits the "Making a Difference" Award for recognition of a lifetime of achievement, some special accomplishment, or for outstanding service as a volunteer.

To receive a nomination form and brochure outlining the selection criteria for these honors please contact the business office. We hope you and the members of your organization will give them careful consideration. If, in your opinion, someone deserves an expression of our gratitude, please take the time to submit a nomination. The awards will be presented each year on the day of the Annual General Meeting of members.

Deadline for nominations to be received at the business office is January 31st, 2001. We hope this initiative will encourage the nomination of remarkable individuals. We appreciate your support of the continued recognition of volunteers within the multiple birth community.

Respectfully submitted,

*Board of Directors
POMBA Canada
Attention: Honors and Awards
PO Box 234
Gormley, Ontario L0H 1G0*

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS 1999 RECIPIENTS

On behalf of the Board and the membership of POMBA Canada, it is a great pleasure to present our volunteer recognition awards for 1999. The Making a Difference Awards program was created for the express purpose of acknowledging our 'unsung heroes', inspired by the achievements of our founding President, Sheryl McInnes.

This program is to honor our best - those people who have demonstrated excellence, outstanding accomplishments, contributions and achievements and exceptional dedication to service in ways that are a special credit within the community of multiple births.

The Making A Difference Awards has three categories: International, National and Local/Regional. It is my pleasure to officially announce the 1999 winners of the Making a Difference Awards.

INTERNATIONAL

For exceptional dedication to service in the International Category, we proudly present the Making a Difference Award to the late Sheryl McInnes.

Sheryl McInnes, the founding President of POMBA Canada, led a small group of women who laid the framework for a national organization of parents of multiple births. For a number of years, Sheryl also held several positions within the local club of Lethbridge, held several positions on the board and was the Business Office Manager for a number of years. On behalf of POMBA Canada, Sheryl represented Canadian multiple births at the Society of Twins Studies Congresses, presenting papers on the Loss of a Multiple. Sheryl received the Alberta Achievement Award in 1982, and a Canadian Achievement Award in 1988.

Sheryl also did research and designed a number of publications for POMBA Canada, (Twins in School, Special Delivery and the Death of a Twin) and research and wrote the book: *Breastfeeding Twins, Triplets and Quadruplets*

POMBA Canada proudly recognizes the wealth of work accomplished by Sheryl. For those of us who personally worked alongside, her vision and strength was admired by all. Sheryl's greatest accomplishment in the multiple birth community was her vision to start POMBA Canada in a direction that has flourished over the years.

Sheryl died suddenly in October 1998, and leaves behind a family that is very proud of her accomplishments. Over the past year, I have corresponded with one of Sheryl's twin daughters as the family grieves their loss. Last week, I shared this announcement with Lisa, and details of the volunteer recognition program inspired in part by her Mom. The Board proudly presents the Making a Difference Award on behalf of a grateful national organization to Sheryl's family.

"I was speechless, the plaque and letters brought back a lot of happy memories. I remember how busy mom used to be all the time when we were growing up. As an adult, I look back on the time my mom spent organizing, writing and researching for POMBA and I realize how dedicated and passionate she was about this organization. It is that dedication and passion that drives me to be all that I can. I only hope that I can make as much of a difference in someone's life as she has for so many people."

Sincerely,

Lisa McInnes

NATIONAL

For exceptional Service in the National Category, it is a great pleasure to announce Linda Leonard as the recipient of the 1999 Making A Difference Award.

Linda is an Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia School of Nursing in Vancouver, BC and also sits on the POMBA Canada Advisory Board acting as a consultant to the Board on health related matters and health resources. Linda's many achievements in the multiple birth community include assistance with selected projects with POMBA Canada, the Higher Order Multiple Registry, Surrey Delta POMBA Club and the Triplets, Quads and Quints Association and writing articles for our quarterly magazine. Linda also develops multiple birth parent education materials such as the booklet *Your Helping Hands & Multiple Birth Families* with Diane Myers.

Her program, Multiple Pregnancy and Parenthood Support Program, is to help parents learn how to manage a multiple pregnancy and parenthood and to learn about POMBA Canada.

Linda was not able to attend Convention to accept this award in person but when she was called, she was overwhelmed with the announcement and passes along her gratitude for such an honor.

"I thank you and POMBA Canada for the wonderful honour that you have bestowed on me. The multiple birth community has taught me so much about the challenges associated with multiple pregnancy and parenthood. I am pleased if I have made a difference and look forward to continuing my work with families, clubs, national organizations and the various disciplines that come in contact with multiple birth families"

Sincerely,

Linda G. Leonard

Associate Professor, School of Nursing, UBC

LOCAL/REGIONAL

For exceptional Service in the Regional/Local category, duly nominated by her peers is a dynamic woman known to many of us. Her accomplishments are many, both within her local club and at the national level, and yes, she is the Mom of 'multiple children'! Her energy, ideas, enthusiasm and vision is admired by many and we recognize her dedication to multiple births, past, present and future!

The Board takes great pride and pleasure in presenting the Making a Difference Award on behalf of a grateful National organization in recognition of her outstanding contributions at the local level in the multiple birth community to Diane Myers, Regional Director of Triplets, Quads & Quints Association.

"I must admit that I have been finding myself very humbled by the company that I have been in of late. To be honoured by the POMBA Board of Directors is very special. You all do so much! I guess I am also feeling my insignificance when looking at the International and National recipients - Sheryl McInnis and Linda Leonard. Unfortunately, I never met Sheryl, but...there are no good words..I hope you understand my feelings. And Linda Leonard...well she is one of my heroes."

I would like to say thank you for thinking that I have made a contribution - that means a lot coming from you. I hope I can live up to the honour!"

Kindest regards, Diane Myers

Thank You From Convention 2000 Host Club

Over 160 parents of multiples from across Canada came to Niagara Falls, May 4-7 for POMBA Convention 2000. By the end of the weekend, POMBA Canada had been re-born as Multiple Births Canada, we all learned a little bit to help us meet the challenges of parenting, we had a lot of laughs, and, a few of us had that special moment with Elvis (or Marilyn).

The Convention Committee wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank the many people who supported us in hosting the Convention. Our Keynote Speakers, Eileen Pearlman of Twinsight (and her husband Art) and Patricia Malmstrom of Twin Services, Inc. brought their incredible knowledge and experience of the world of multiples to us, and graciously made themselves very accessible throughout the weekend (Kathy will always remember Art helping her haul in bottles of Coke from her van). Our other workshop presenters, Kim Penwarden, Lynn Adams, Diane Bielicki, Dr. Jon Barrett, Zopito Marini, Frank Fincham, Kim Ruller, Andrea Foy, Diane Myers, Donna Launslager, and, of course the POMBA Board in attendance, Bonnie Schultz, Carrie Johnston and Kim Weatherall, kindly lent us their time and expertise. We are in their debt.

Thank you to Canadian Niagara Hotels for making our stay so pleasant. We deeply appreciate the support of members of Niagara Region POMBA, the many individuals, organizations and companies who donated door prizes and goody bag items, our sponsors, especially Unilac Canada, and our Niagara communities.

We wish to thank the POMBA Canada Board of Directors for working collaboratively with us over the past few years. And we owe a deep debt of gratitude to our families who gave us their time and patience.

Finally, we thank you ... for your support and encouragement, for coming, and for making the Convention a wonderful experience for us.

*Thank You,
The Convention 2000 Committee, Niagara Region POMBA*

The 50/50 draw at Convention was shared by Diane Myers and Donna Launslager

The Club Z points raffle was won by Paula Clark,
Durham Region POMBA

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Dear Members, Clubs, Area Contacts,

From time to time, your email address, telephone number and mailing address changes. For clubs, your executive members change-over at least once a year. One of the most important services the national office provides is referrals and networking with others across this vast county. How successful this is depends on keeping information current and accurate.

PLEASE notify the office if and when any of the contact information changes. It is extremely disheartening to receive a message from a parent who is trying desperately to connect with others in the community and no one is there to return/answer the call.

Your co-operation and assistance in ensuring that this service is the best it can be is much appreciated. Please forward your changes in executive, and other relevant contact information to the office. If you are not yet on e-mail, please find someone in your club who is willing to receive email messages from time to time on behalf of the club and let us know who that is.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Business Services Manager

Loss of Multiples Registry

The May/June 2000 issue of Twins Magazine has carried an article entitled *The Sorrow of Losing a Twin*. I was interviewed by e-mail for this article and Bonnie in our Business Office forwarded our Bereavement Kit complete with loss information to the author, Amy E. Tracy. Elizabeth Pector's story of the stillbirth of her twin son three years ago is shared. We have been in contact with Elizabeth over the past year or so and she has been extremely helpful with our Loss Series Fact Sheets. She has reviewed and contributed to a couple of them. We have benefited greatly from her support and input and as well from Jean Kolantai from Center for Loss in Multiple Birth (CLIMB) in Alaska.

POMBA Canada is included in the article as a resource and our Bereavement Kit and Loss Registry are promoted. While the loss of any child is devastating, we are pleased to note that POMBA Canada is recognized as one of several important support resources for anyone losing any, some or all of their multiple children.

Lynda P. Haddon, Chair, Loss of Multiples Registry