

British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

Newsletter - Dec. 2013



Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

This month, news for our Apology Petition, the donation of the Perry Snow database to the BHCA&RA & a special presentation of HOMECHILD the Musical

BHCARA Director, Roberta Horrox, from Manitoba, had her local MP contact the Minister of Immigration, to ask about the Apology Petition. The reply she received was that by declaring 2010 the Year of the British Home Child and issuing a stamp, the federal government feels that the British Home Children and their descendants have received enough recognition. Yet, in all presentations given by this organization, no one has ever heard of either.

The Apology Petition was presented in the House of Commons by Judy Sgro MP, Liberal Critic for Seniors, Pension and Status for Women. This was the second time the Petition has been read in the House. The BHCARA feels that the Apology Petition will help get the recognition that our BHC and their descendants deserve and ensure their place in Canada's history. The BHCARA is now collecting for our next presentation. Original signatures from Canadian residents are required.

You can download the petition here:
www.CanadianBritishHomeChildren.weebly.com.

Perry Snow, has transferred his database of about 60,000 British Home Children to our organization. Also, Perry has offered his book, "Neither Waif Nor Stray" for free downloaded from the British Home Children in Canada web site. Thank you Perry for your generous donation!

HOMECHILD the Musical: Barb Perkins, writer of the acclaimed HOMECHILD the Musical will be hosting as special presentation of this musical in Erin, Ontario on October 23rd, 24th and 25th 2014. For more information please visit:
www.homechildmusical.com

Black Creek Pioneer Village - 2014 HOMECHILD the Musical which has been performed to great acclaim, has agreed to perform two of their numbers at the Black Creek Pioneer Village British Home Child Day, September 28, 2014.

Also performing that day will be acclaimed Celtic fiddler and BHC descendant Keltie Robertson, the Miller School of Irish Dance, Highland dancers and folk singer Marion Parsons.

We are honoured to also have speakers Marjory Kohli, Rose McCormick Brandon and Judy Sgro, MP York West (the riding of Black Creek Pioneer Village) and Apology Petition presenter.

On July 28th 2014 there will be a special commemoration service held at Black Creek to honour the BHC who served and who died in WW1. Please contact Lori Oschefski if you have any information on a BHC who may have perished in battle.

Lori.oschefski@gmail.com

British Home Child of the Month Is our Honorary Patron and Surviving Home Child **John Vallance**

John Vallance, currently residing in Alberta, came to Canada with one of the last shipment of children from the Barnardo Homes just before war was declared. A few months after his mother had passed away, he was placed in Barnardo's in early 1938.

So, at 14, he was sent to Woodstock, Ontario where his experience was good yet lonely. His two regrets were that he was separated from his four younger brothers and sisters and that he did not complete his education.

After farming in Saskatchewan and then working for Canadian Pacific Railway as a fireman, John enlisted in the Canada Army where he served our country for over thirty years, spending time in Korea as well as Germany. Later he trained pistol and rifle teams in British Columbia.

John married Elizabeth Minaker in 1949 in Brandon, Manitoba. Together they raised four children. After his honourable discharge from the military in 1974 John started a successful bartending business in Calgary. John and Elizabeth had a good life, but there was still an empty place. He'd often wondered about the family he had left behind in the United Kingdom.

After his wife's death in 1997, one of John's daughters encouraged him to find his brothers and sisters. They contacted all the Vallances they could find in Ayr, Scotland, where he was from. He was amazed to find a sister in England, married with children and a brother in Australia. Sadly two of his siblings were already deceased. One month after speaking to his sister on the phone, the Vallances were reunited in Australia, after fifty years of separation.

Later he was able to visit the children of his two deceased siblings in Scotland. John says: "I now feel at peace with the world, and that I have done my duty as a good Canadian citizen. And I am still a Barnardo Boy."

New book release by Sandra Joyce

Sandra Joyce's much anticipated second novel, called *Belonging*, will be launched at Black Creek Pioneer Village, September 28th 2014. It is the sequel to the *The Street Arab - The Story of a British Home Child*.

Please visit Sandra's web site for more information:
www.sandrajoyce.com

Below, John Vallance in 1939, in Korea 1953 & at home in Calgary 2012

