

# the MISSING LINK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSING CHILDREN SOCIETY OF CANADA

FALL 2009

## MCSC FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARKS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

To say that Rhonda Morgan is a visionary would be an understatement. Driven by a sense of destiny to help families through their darkest hours, Rhonda created the Missing Children Society of Canada with the aim of doing more when all others have moved on.

Her journey began back in 1984. Rhonda had just gone through a divorce and was working in the printing industry, when she happened to watch a television program that changed her life. The program on abducted children struck a chord with Rhonda, and set her on a course toward her calling.

"I can still see these mothers crying from the bottom of their hearts and just not believing that somebody would actually take a little child and harm them. It was just so unbelievable to me," Rhonda recalled of that fateful evening.



**"If you hammer at that wall long enough and hard enough, eventually you breakthrough."**

After seeing the program, Rhonda became a passionate volunteer with a local nonprofit organization. Her fervor to support the cause eventually got her fired from her paying job, as more and more time was spent on her volunteer efforts. Jobless, and eventually homeless, Rhonda's commitment never faltered. After nearly two years, Rhonda felt that there was more that she could be doing to locate missing children. In 1986, Rhonda created the Missing Children Society of Canada.

Rhonda, who became a trained investigator, assembled a team of staff including retired police officers to keep the search active when everyone else has slowed down. Since that time, the organization has assisted law enforcement in over 6,000 cases and has closed over 1,630 cases. But with an average of 60,000 reported cases of missing children in Canada every year, Rhonda's drive to continue the search remains as strong as ever.

"These cases gnaw at me every day, and it can feel like you're hitting a brick wall," said Rhonda, "But if you hammer at that wall long enough and hard enough, eventually you break through. This is what I was meant to do. I absolutely believe that."

On October 22nd, the diminutive but determined single mom was honoured for her service of 25 years in the search for missing children. Rhonda's friends and family



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gathered with MCSC staff to surprise Rhonda with a celebration of her life's work.

"I am truly honored," said Rhonda following the event. In typical fashion, Rhonda went on to acknowledge the support she's received from others.

"The 25 years part I accept as my own, but the accomplishments and success belong to all of us. Each person at the table that night, and countless others who were not, are all crucial players in what we are today. Like rungs on a ladder each person has given me what I needed to take the next step in my journey. I don't believe I'm at the top of that ladder yet and I'm looking forward to taking the next steps together."

To support MCSC in the ongoing search for missing children, or to provide information on the whereabouts of any missing children, please contact MCSC at [www.mcsc.ca](http://www.mcsc.ca) or toll-free at 1-800-661-6160.

## STILL MISSING



**BRYAN JEFFREY BRAUMBERGER**  
**Date of Birth**  
 August 1988  
**Hair**..... Light Brown  
**Eyes**.....Blue/Grey  
**Sex**..... Male  
**Missing Since**  
 June 1, 2007  
**Missing From**  
 Burnaby, BC



**BRIANNE RUTH WOLGRAM**  
**Date of Birth**  
 March 1979  
**Hair**..... Light Brown  
**Eyes**.....Blue  
**Sex**..... Female  
**Missing Since**  
 Sept. 5, 1998  
**Missing From**  
 Revelstoke, BC



**JEFFREY STUART SURTEL**  
**Date of Birth**  
 February 1990  
**Eyes**..... Blue/grey  
**Hair**....Med. Brown  
**Sex**..... Male  
**Missing Since**  
 April 29, 2007  
**Missing From**  
 Mission, BC



**THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT SUPPORTERS**

*(Over \$10,000)*

Alberta Sherriffs Association

*(\$5,000 to \$9,999)*

Omni Facility Services Canada Corp.

*(\$2,000 to \$4,999)*

Husky Energy

Save On Foods - Burnaby & Mission, BC

Sobeys - Olds

Sobeys - Riverbend

Sobeys - Royal Oak

*(\$1000 to \$1,999)*

Beaners Fun Cuts for Kids - West Springs

Eagle Investigations

FirstEnergy Foundation

Pam Alloway

Sobeys - Bridlewood

Sobeys - Deerpoint

Sobeys - Lakeview

Sobeys - Millrise

Sobeys - Tuscany

**CANDLELIGHT WALK TEAMS**

*(Over \$10,000)*

Abby Scotiabankers

*(\$5,000 to \$9,999)*

Brit's Cousins & The Stalmans

Westminster Savings & The Braumbergers

*(\$1,000 to \$4,999)*

Forget-Me-Nots

Hopeful

Mission Possible

**SEARCH PARTNERS**



*Thank you to the Calgary and Edmonton Sheriffs Associations, which raised \$10,000 for MCSC during their 2009 golf tournaments.*

**HELP US CONTINUE THE SEARCH  
DONATE ONLINE AT [WWW.MCSC.CA](http://WWW.MCSC.CA)**

**CONTACT US**

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Toll Free: 1.800.661.6160

Registered Charity Number: 10770 6392 RR0001

**2009 CANDLELIGHT WALK FOR MISSING CHILDREN**

**THANK YOU** for helping us light their way home at the 2009 Candlelight Walk for Missing Children!

On September 26th approximately 200 walkers gathered together to help us light the night at the Candlelight Walk for Missing Children in Burnaby, BC. This first year event raised \$45,000 surpassing our goal by \$15,000! MCSC would like to thank the dedicated volunteer work of searching families in the area, sponsors, donors and event day volunteers for making the Candlelight WALK a huge success.

Congratulations to Linda Monds for winning the top fundraising prize- two round trip tickets to any WestJet scheduled destination!



**2009 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who took part in this year's golf tournament.

Despite the down turn in the economy, when you combine a great golf course and an amazing group of people, good things can still happen. Held at the beautiful Springbank Links Golf Course, \$25,000 was raised at the 8th annual Missing Children Society of Canada Charity Golf Tournament.

During the meal, Judy Peterson, whose daughter Lindsey Nicholls has been missing for 16 years, spoke about years she has spent searching for her daughter and how the Missing Children Society of Canada has assisted and supported her family throughout their ordeal.



*Coming in at 11 under par, congratulations to the winning team of Bee Clean (and guests)!*

Thank you so much to the sponsors and prize and auction donors whose commitment and generosity never fail to amaze us. With their support we can continue the search for missing children.

**2009 CALGARY POLICE RODEO**

**EACH AND EVERY YEAR** the Calgary Police Rodeo raises money for MCSC, and this year was no different. The 27th Annual Calgary Police Rodeo held on August 22 was one of their biggest yet . Fifty-seven competitors from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and even one competitor from England, saddled up to raise money. Although final numbers are not yet in, they expect to surpass last year's donation of \$8000.

Thank you to the Calgary Police Association and its members and volunteers for their on-going commitment and dedication.

**FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

**SEARCHING FOR HAPPY ENDINGS GALA 2010:** Plans are already underway for our gala event which will take place on March 20th, 2010. Please contact us at [events@mcsc.ca](mailto:events@mcsc.ca) for more information about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.

**HOST AN EVENT:** Lend support in your own way! If you are interested in organizing a fundraising event on our behalf, contact us by phone at 1-800-661-6160 or email us at [events@mcsc.ca](mailto:events@mcsc.ca) for further information.