

the MISSING LINK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSING CHILDREN SOCIETY OF CANADA

SUMMER 2009

COMMUNITY SUPPORT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN

In today's economic uncertainty, nonprofit groups across the country are struggling to find the financial support to continue their programs. The Missing Children Society of Canada (MCSC) is among those who are facing this challenge.

"This past year has been unusually difficult," said Rhonda Morgan, Executive Director of MCSC, "Missing children reports continue to arise, but less and less funds are coming in to support our search efforts due to the current economy."

While MCSC's annual fundraising events continued to raise much needed funds and awareness, the overall results fell short of previous years. The trend is also being seen in third-party fundraising events hosted by community and corporate supporters.

"We can only express our gratitude to our donors and supporters during these challenging times, and ask for their continued support," Rhonda continued, "Despite the increased challenge, the search must continue for our missing children."

Among those missing are Maisy Odjick, 16, and Shannon Alexander, 17, who disappeared September 6th, 2008. The two best friends were last seen at Shannon's home in Maniwaki, Quebec, which is about 145 kilometers north of Ottawa.

Bryan Alexander, Shannon's father, last saw the girls that day when he left them at his home to help paint his son's house in Ottawa. When he returned, there was no sign of either of them. "I feel as though someone

ripped my heart out," said Shannon's father later that month while assisting a ground search.

While some information suggests that the girls' may have run away, MCSC has found nothing to substantiate this. All of their belongings, including clothes and wallets, were still at home. Also, Shannon had enrolled in a nursing school that fall.

"I just want my daughter home or to hear her voice again," said Laurie Odjick, Maisy's mother, at a vigil held one month after the girls' disappearance.

"Missing children reports continue to arise, but less and less funds are coming in to support our search efforts."

As the one year anniversary of the girls' disappearance nears, MCSC remains committed to continuing to assist the search for Maisy and Shannon. As always, we will continue to rely on the ongoing support from the community to make our search efforts possible.



MAISY MARIE ODJICK

Date of BirthNovember 1991
Hair.....Brown
Eyes.....Brown



SHANNON ALEXANDER

Date of BirthMarch 1991
Hair.....Brown
Eyes.....Brown

In the nearly one year since their disappearance, a number of tips and sightings have surfaced, to no avail. MCSC investigators have traveled to the region twice to interview relevant people and conduct ground searches. MCSC efforts have coordinated with two police departments in the area, as well as a ground team.

If you have seen any of these missing children, or know of their whereabouts, please call MCSC:

1-800-661-6160

STILL MISSING



JESOKAH ADKENS
Date of Birth
 May 1984
EyesBlue
HairBlonde
SexFemale
Missing Since
 Sept. 26, 2001
Missing From
 Sooke, BC



DESMOND PETERS
Date of Birth
 November 1992
EyesBrown
HairBrown
Sex Male
Missing Since
 March 1, 2007
Missing From
 Cowichan Valley, B.C



LUCAS JAMES DEGERNESS
Date of Birth
 January 1993
EyesBrown
Hair Brown or Blonde
SexMale
Missing Since
 June 7, 2007
Missing From
 Prince George, BC



THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT SUPPORTERS

(Over \$20,000)

Community Spirit Grant
Concorde Maintenance

(Over \$10,000)

Northgate Aviation
The Rotary Club of Calgary Millennium
Westminster Savings Credit Union

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

Calgary Police Association
7-Eleven Canada Inc. Manitoba
Bee Clean
Manorlea Systems Inc.
Omni Facility Services Canada Corp.

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

The Calgary Foundation
7-Eleven Canada Inc. Calgary
O'Rourke Engineering Ltd.
EnCana Corporation
Alliance Pipeline Limited Partnership
Deerfoot Mechanical Ltd.
Holiday Inn Express Hotels & Suites - Airdrie
Deloitte & Touche Foundation Canada

(\$1000 to \$1,999)

Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School
Blaine Hyer & Stellanie Criebardis Hyer
ENMAX Energy Corp.
Magna IV Engineering Ltd
Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd.
TMP Consulting Engineers
ATCO Gas
Canada Border Services
Convergent Technologies
Elizabeth Mendal
Constance Howse
Knights of Columbus St Nicholas Byzantine
Ukrainian Council
Maxim Research & Consulting Corp. Ltd.
Parlee McLaws LLP
Safeway Holdings
Spier Harben Barristers & Solicitors

SEARCH PARTNERS

WestJet
Budget Car and Truck Rental

2009 SEARCHING FOR HAPPY ENDINGS GALA

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's "Searching for Happy Endings Gala" such a rewarding success. It is with your commitment and compassion that we can raise the vital awareness and funds needed to continue the ongoing search for the thousands of abducted and runaway children in Canada.

With the generous support our event host NorthGate Aviation, and many other Calgary local businesses, the gala successfully raised nearly \$80,000 for the Missing Children Society of Canada, and our investigative search program, Project: *Reunite*.

Close to 160 people attended the gala event which was held at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel in Calgary on Saturday, March 14th, 2009. Attendees enjoyed an evening filled with music, entertainment and a live auction. A special thanks to our event emcees, Angela Kokott and Grant Pollack of Calgary's Global TV.

We were also honoured to welcome Lynn and Lee Singleton as the evening's special guests. Guests were moved by Lee's touching story of the search for her niece, Brett McKinnon. By sharing her family's story, all in attendance were able to make a personal connection to our commitment to leave no stone unturned.

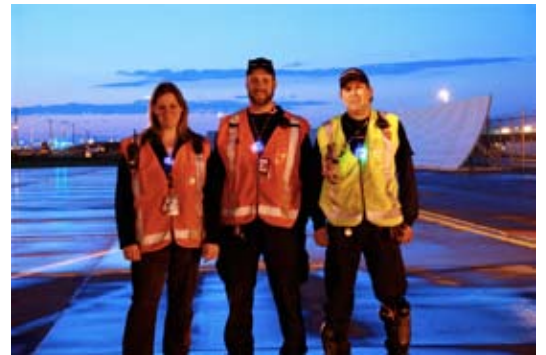


Gregg McMartin, an investigator with MCSC, and his wife Dolores enjoy the evening with guest speaker Lee Singleton (far right) and Lynn Singleton, the mother of Brett McKinnon.

WESTJETTERS LIGHT THE WAY HOME FOR MISSING CHILDREN

AS A SEARCH PARTNER, WestJet not only flies our investigators to the front line of a search they also participate in our fundraising and public awareness campaigns.

This year, WestJet promoted our national "Light the Way Home" campaign throughout the month of May by displaying our key messages on their website, airplane television seat backs, at their airport counters and all front line staff wore glow necklaces on May 25th promoting National Missing Children's Day and LTWH.



Through WestJet's support thousands of Canadians received the message to turn their porch light on and light the way home for missing children.

POINT OF SALE CAMPAIGN

Sobeys Southern Alberta and Beaners Canada raised close to \$25,000 throughout the months of May and June through the generosity of their customers making a \$2 donation at the till.

This simple campaign not only raised much needed funds to continue the search, it also brought awareness to the society and the families we service.

HELP US CONTINUE THE SEARCH
DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.MCSC.CA

CONTACT US

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Fax: 905.469.8828
Web: <http://mcsc.ca>
Toll Free: 1.800.661.6160

FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CANDLELIGHT WALK FOR MISSING CHILDREN: We invite you to take part in our first ever walk in Burnaby, BC this September 26th, 2009. Walk. Donate. Volunteer. Email events@mcsc.ca for more information.

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 291-0705 or email us at events@mcsc.ca for further information.