

HOME & COUNTRY



“Today’s Families: A Bridge to the Future”

By Joyce Glover

From October 12 to 15, 1994, Montreal hosted an international conference in recognition of the closure of International Year of the Family. “Today’s Families - A Bridge to the Future” offered delegates an opportunity to discuss the family program and policy issues facing the private sector, non-governmental organizations and governments. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Montreal Mayor Jean Doré and Conference Co-Chairs Judge Andrée Ruffo and Robert Couchman wished all attending a fruitful conference.

Highlights of some of the conference sessions follow:

Thursday, October 13, 1994

“Our Legacy to Today’s Children and Tomorrow’s Parents”

Dr. Bernard Kouchner, President of the Association for Humanitarian Action and founder of Physicians Without Borders in France, described himself as a “specialist in misfortune” because he travels from country to country, from disaster to disaster. Dr. Kouchner - as a humanist, activist and statesman - has played a key role in the obtaining of international recognition for the “right to interfere” in the name of human rights. He said today’s children live in “a brittle, fragile world in progress;” a world that is overshadowed with the threat of HIV/AIDS and unemployment. He ended on an optimistic note, however, by stating that the legacy we should leave our children is the ability “to wage war against war.”



“Who Cares for the Kids? For the Elders? For the Care-givers?”

Several panelists discussed innovative projects aimed at strengthening intergenerational links - between children, their parents, the elderly, and their care-givers. They discussed what should be done, what lessons can be learned and how to follow up projects.

“
It’s very common today to hear people say the family is threatened. Particular forms of the family are eroding, but other models are replacing them. The family isn’t disintegrating, it’s evolving - and that’s a very exciting process. We need to tell people it’s just change and change isn’t a bad thing.”

United States

continued on page 4



Inside:

Tips from a PRO	3
Today’s Families continued.....	4
Quilt Show and Barbecue	5
Resolutions	6
Annual Meeting Highlights	7
Women’s Day at the Royal	9
Rare Breeds Conservancy	10
Regional Profile: Helen Wilson	11
Questionnaire Results	12
Cross Country Calendar	14-15