

# Search is on for lost siblings

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

Michelle Bourque-McKenzie has wondered about her twin brothers ever since she found out they existed.

The 19-year-old Carlisle woman discovered she had two brothers when she was 13 years old. Her mom, Sandy McKenzie, had put the two boys up for adoption when they were six months old. At the time Michelle was only two, and she didn't have any recollection of the identical twins.

Ever since she found out, Michelle has wondered where her brothers are, what their lives are like, and if they're healthy and happy. She would love to meet them.

The boys are 18 now. Christopher and Shawn were born on Feb. 13, 1975. Since their 18th birthday Michelle and Sandy have been going through the proper channels to see if they could locate the boys. Neither of them knew the other one had begun the search process. Once they found out they were both attempting to find the boys, they began working together.

The only clue they have of their whereabouts, they received from a Halton Children's Aid Society employee years ago. She said that the boys lived in the rural area of north Halton.

"The greatest gift I could give Michelle is a reunion with her brothers," said an emotional Sandy. "Deciding to put the twins up for adoption was the very toughest decision I ever had to make."

Sandy had a difficult pregnancy with the boys. She was in Henderson



Michelle Bourque-McKenzie is hopeful that she will be able to locate her identical twin brothers who were adopted when they were just six months old.

General Hospital in Hamilton for weeks before they were born in February. After she gave birth to the seven pound boys, she didn't get her strength back. Her husband wasn't working at the time and he was not emotionally or mentally stable when she brought the boys home. Sandy says she felt very "alone and isolated."

She became weaker and weaker, and eventually had to be hospitalized.

When she was released from hospital the situation had not improved. After about six months of attempting to cope she decided that the boys would be better off in another home where they would get the love and support of two parents.

"Things were not getting any better. It was a heart-wrenching

situation. I knew that I wouldn't have been able to provide the life that I wanted for the boys. I had to think what was best for everyone's life," said Sandy.

The last time she saw the boys they were six months old. The Halton CAS placed the boys together.

Over the years Sandy says she has thought about the twins often. She has a big brown envelope full of newspaper articles she has collected that deal with adoption and women who have reunited with their children.

One drawer in her home is devoted to memories of the twins, she has their baby pictures there, and a box full of congratulation cards sent to her when they born. She also has the boys' birth announcement that ran in the newspaper and their tiny hospital identification bracelets.

Michelle says she often goes to the drawer to pore over the pictures and cards.

They are in the process of registering with the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Adoption Disclosure Service. If the boys have registered with the service, they have to be 18 to do so, they may be able to connect.

They have made attempts to scan high school yearbooks in north Halton, but haven't come across the twins' pictures yet or been able to locate all of the books.

"We just hope that there is joy at the end of all the tears," said Sandy.

Anyone with information on the twins is asked to contact Sandy or Michelle collect at (416) 689-0102 or write to them at 1396 Progreston Rd., RR # 3 Campbellville, Ont., L0P 1B0.

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