

Web leads local woman to the mother she never knew

A search on the Web has led to the joyous reunion of a Georgetown woman and the mother who put her up for adoption 45 years ago.

Bev Colarossi, of Georgetown, had just about given up any hope of finding her birth mother until she got a call a week before her birthday from a person from a Web site for Canadian adoptees. The voice on the phone told her that her mother was trying to contact her.

About a half-hour earlier, Marion Arlene Cumpsty, 81, of Scarborough, with the help of her grandson, had gone on-line searching for the daughter she hadn't seen since her birth in Toronto General Hospital.

She had always wanted to find her but didn't think there was any way, until she found an ad for www.canadianadopteesregistry.org.

"I phoned Jimmy my grandson. He's always on the Internet, and I said, 'Will you try this, see if you can find her,'" said Cumpsty.

Ecstatic mother and daughter spoke on the phone that night, and made plans to meet three days later.

"We both started to cry at first," she said. "I felt all this emotion."

"It's really a miracle," said Cumpsty, who added she has thought of the baby girl nearly every day since she gave her up.

"I wondered about whether she was living or dead, and if she was with a good family."

Cumpsty, who at the time had the last name of Packard, was a widow raising four children on her own in the 1950s after her husband died of polio.

She had been living with a man who wouldn't marry her because his mother opposed her son taking a woman with "baggage."

Things looked bad and got worse when she was raped at a party.

"I had a little too much to drink," she said. Nine

months later she gave birth to the daughter she named Nancy Lee. Children's Aid told Cumpsty she had to give up the baby. She said she desperately wanted to keep her but with a mortgage, four kids, and a job at a dry cleaner shop that paid only \$60 a week, she couldn't.



Bev Colarossi, left, of Georgetown shares a hug with her birth mother Marion Cumpsty, whom Colarossi found via a Web site for adoptees.

"I think I cried all day, but there was no way I could do it," she said. Colarossi ended up being adopted

by John and Queenie Campbell, who renamed her Beverley. She grew up with a brother who was also adopted.

Her parents told her she was adopted when she was eight. From then on, she often won-

Packards listed, but never did. When she was 20, Colarossi went looking for information about her birth parents from the Children's Aid Society (CAS). She learned she had four siblings as well as the age of her mother. She was also told that her mother was a widower, and that she worked at a dry cleaner.

"I put in an application with the CAS to tell them I was interested in meeting my family," said Colarossi but nothing ever happened—until Cumpsty clipped the ad for the adoptees Web site.

About seven years ago Colarossi's adoptive mother, whom she was very close to, died.

She said finding her birth mother, whom she adores, was "a blessing ...something I really needed" because she has missed her adoptive mother so much.

Birth mother and daughter have been getting to know each other and couldn't be happier about their reunion.

They have learned they have never lived more than an hour apart, they had both worked for a dry cleaner and that they both love animals and collecting.

Colarossi has also had a chance to get to know her new siblings, two sisters and two brothers.

"They all seem really, really nice. They've just really welcomed me with open arms."

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer with files from Torstar News Service

Police blotter Integra stolen

Halton Police are investigating the theft of a \$25,000 2001 Acura Integra from the driveway of an Eighth Line home late last Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Police report someone attempted to steal a 1980 Chevrolet Corvette parked in the underground parking lot at The Sands sometime between last December and Saturday. The owner of the vehicle discovered damage to the steering column Saturday.

A Mercury outdoor motor valued at \$1,400 was stolen late last Saturday or early last Sunday from a trailer parked at a Delrex Blvd. home.

Police report five maple trees, valued at \$3,000, were chopped down with a hatchet at the Salvation Army church property on Mountainview Rd. late Friday or early Saturday.

Restaurant-goers can now dine wisely

If you are planning on eating out in Halton, you can now dine more wisely.

Since the first week of May, participating Halton restaurants have been making available information about their food handling practices.

Dinewise is a part of the Halton Region's health department's food safety program.

"The program is one more example of initiatives the health department is taking to reduce foodborne illness, the consequences of which, both in economic and health terms, are often underestimated," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health.

Information about restaurants' safe food handling practices is available at every participating restaurant. They will post a certificate of inspection and have a summary inspection report available for the public to view upon request.

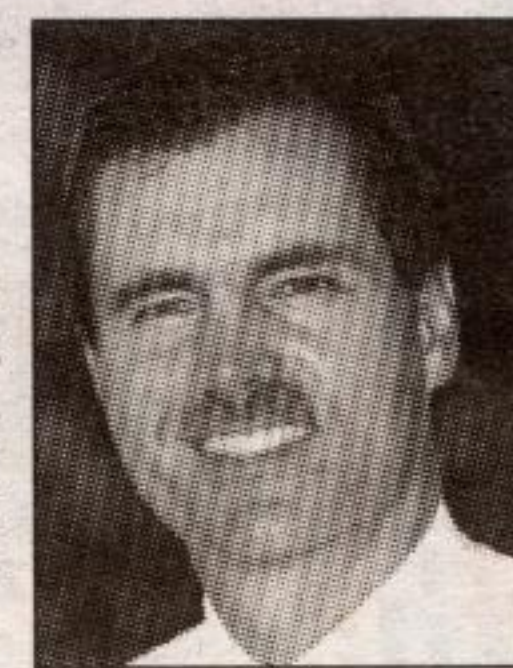
A summary inspection report outlines whether a restaurant has met basic

food safety standards as required by provincial legislation.

There are seven food safety standards or areas of assessment that a restaurant must comply with in order to pass inspection:

- Food must remain free from contamination.
- Food must be stored properly, at the right temperature.
- There must be no sign of pests such as cockroaches or mice.
- The premise must be well maintained and sanitary.
- Good food handling and hygiene practices must be followed.
- Garbage and waste must be handled and disposed of properly.
- Equipment and utensils must be cleaned and stored properly.

All restaurants in Halton were approached and asked by the health



DR. BOB NOSAL

department if they were interested in voluntarily participating in the Dinewise program. Most restaurants accepted and are now participating.

Locally, James Scarlett, general manager of Charley FitzWhiskey's, said he was happy to participate in the program.

"I feel the customer has the right to know what goes on in my restaurant," said Scarlett. "It makes the customer feel more assured they are getting quality food."

"I think it is good if the customers can see that a restaurant has complied with all the regulations," said Sam Jakupi, manager of Shoeless Joe's, another local restaurant participating in the program.

If you see a certificate of inspection posted in a restaurant and want to find out about its food safety practices, ask to view the summary inspection report. If you do not see a certificate you may want to ask the owner/operator why they are not taking part in the program.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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