



Moms Of Lots Of Tots



TWIN TALK

October 2004

I must first apologize for the tardiness in getting this newsletter out to you. My only excuse is that I haven't prepared the newsletter in quite some time and the creative juices have stopped flowing and procrastination has set in. Having said that, please bear with me as I try to muddle through it all and give you as much information as I can. And hopefully in the process I can make reading this a little enjoyable, if not a little humorous.

But before deluging you with Club business (and believe me, there is A LOT), I just want to say that I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and are still enjoying a week's worth of leftovers and then some. For me, Thanksgiving is always a time to pause and count our blessings. Even in challenging times there are so many things for which to be thankful. For this Thanksgiving Day, I would like to share a poem that I found which I hope you will enjoy! And to prevent the mood from getting too serious, I would also like to share a list of MY kids', or should I say EVERY kid's, laws. Who said that teaching children how to share was easy?

Life's Riches

When we count our many blessings
it isn't hard to see,
That life's most valued treasures
are the treasures that are free.

For it isn't what we own or buy
that signifies our wealth,
It's the special gifts that have no price –
our family, friends and health!

Kid Laws

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
5. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks just like mine, it's mine.
8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
10. If it's broken, it's yours.

Now back to business... Well, it's hard not to notice that our Club is going through a lot of changes this year. Our new co-leaders, **Robyn Steed**, **Brenda Stewart** and **Nareeta Stephenson** are doing a tremendous job so far. These ladies are working tirelessly on planning and organizing our meetings with special events and speakers for everyone to enjoy (and trust me, I should know because my IN-box has never been so active or so full). Watch for information regarding our *B-I-G Swap Meet* in November, an *ice-skating party* in December, and of course, our annual *Christmas Party* for adults and children. In conjunction with our *Christmas Party*, we will also be having a "*Silent Auction*". If you know anyone (or company) that would be kind and generous enough to donate any item(s) to our *Silent Auction*, please contact **Elsa Edwards** at (604) 525-9892 or **Brenda Stewart** at (604) 937-5534.

Our co-leaders are also working closely with **Liz Dustan** on our new website www.momsoftots.com and it is almost complete. If you have not browsed through it, signed in and become a member, we strongly encourage you to do so. There is a lot of useful information that you won't find in our newsletters (ie. the Forum, e-card, photo gallery, etc.). Maintaining a website requires a lot of hard work and dedication. We want

Liz and her Dad, **Mike Dustan**, to know that we are grateful for everything they have done for our Club and that their efforts are worthwhile and greatly appreciated!

We are pleased to report that our number of members is increasing! As a result of this, it is getting more costly to copy and mail out our newsletter. To assist in reducing those costs, our aim is to post our monthly newsletter onto our website, with mailouts only going to those without access to the internet. However, if you are one of those people who prefer a hardcopy of our newsletter, please let us know and we will include you in our mailout list.

Just a friendly reminder that there are still a few people who have not yet submitted their registration form and dues. To enable our co-leaders and webmaster to compile a complete list of members for this year, we need you to do this as soon as possible. Please mail your registration form and dues to **Brenda Stewart** (706 Carleton Drive, Port Moody, BC, V3H 3L2). Alternatively, registration forms will be available at October's meeting – this will be your last chance to sign up to receive all the benefits that being a member has to offer. In addition, please take the time and fill out the Planning Questionnaire which is available on our website. This is your opportunity to provide our co-leaders with valuable information so that they know what they can do to attract as many people to our monthly meetings and social functions. As an added incentive, a 50/50 draw will take place at each one. Congratulations to **Alison Gignac** who won approximately \$30 at September's meeting.



For anyone who wants to reminisce about the good time they had at our summer BBQ and picnic, **Darla Furlani**, our gracious hostess and resident photographer, has announced that an 8x10 photograph of our group is now available for sale. For the low price of \$14.00 you can have one for your very own. But hurry, this special offer is available only until October 31, 2004. Please contact Robyn Steed at (604) 465-0666 or robynsteed@telus.net to place your orders! A sneak preview of this photograph will be made available at our next meeting.



Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 21, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. And SHE'S BACK... **Barb Desmarais** will be joining us once again to speak about the following topic:

"How to have a life and still be a great parent"

Does being a dedicated parent mean you can't have a life of your own? Do you sometimes feel a part of you is lost? This workshop will lead you on the path to uncovering the areas of your life that are calling for attention while at the same time give you confidence that you're a great parent.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. You are invited to bring your spouse, family member, or friend. This seminar is free for members, and \$5.00 for non-members. To ensure that Barb has enough copies of her materials for everyone in attendance, please confirm your attendance to **Brenda Stewart** at (604) 937-5534 as soon as possible before the meeting.



Halloween Costume Swap – Thursday, October 21, 2004 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (before Barb Desmarais speaks). If your children haven't yet decided what or whom they would like to dress up as and need a few ideas, or if you've already found their costumes this year and would like to find a good home for the outgrown ones, now is your chance. Please contact **Brenda Stewart** at (604) 937-5534 prior to the club meeting if you wish to have a table set up for your goods and accessories.



Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 30, 2004. Our ***Halloween Masquerade Party 2004*** will be held at Trinity United Church from 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. Come out for the scariest party of all...Costume parade, door prizes galore, 50/50 draw, coffee, muffins, bagels, gooey sandwiches, treats, gunk table, craft table, spooky tunnel and much, much more. Our phone

volunteers will be making their rounds within the next week or two to confirm your attendance. If you are willing and able to bring a dish or treat to share with the ghosts and goblins, please let your phone volunteer know.



Here are a few activities that can keep you and your children entertained during the month of October:

Laity Pumpkin Patch, 21145 – 128th Street, Maple Ridge, (604) 467-4302 – Different varieties of pumpkins, giant sunflowers, hayride, petty zoo, farm animals, children displays, maze. Admission is \$1.00.

Grant's Farm, 2420 Burns Road, Port Coquitlam, (604) 941-2474 – squash, pumpkin displays, festive ghosts.



Pumpkins,

Art Knapp Plantland & Florist, 1300 Dominion Avenue, Port Coquitlam, (604) 942-7518 – Bring the whole family and enjoy the twisty and spooky hay maze, plus there is a bouncy castle and many other spooky surprises. Admission is by donation with all proceeds going to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Ikea's Haunted House, House – Ikea Style.

Richmond and Coquitlam locations – Visit their Haunted House – Admission is by donation with all proceeds going to UNICEF.

Stanley Park Halloween for the whole family.



Ghost Train – There are plenty of fun and ghoulish activities Add to the fun and come in costume. Check out <http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/events/ghosttrain/> for more information.

LOOK WHO'S COMING...



Gabrielle Cowley and her husband **John** are expecting twins on September 26, 2004

Lisa Solnordal is expecting her twins in Mid-October 2004

Sally Lee and her husband **Sheldon** are expecting their twins in Mid-December 2004

Caroline and David Payn are expecting a boy on November 1, 2004

LOOK WHO'S HERE...



Jennifer and Bob Jameison welcomed fraternal boys **Kyle** (5lbs. 2oz.) and **Bryce** (5lbs. 8oz.) on May 14, 2004

Tracy and Adam Waldie welcomed fraternal girls **Adelaide Mackenzie** (6lbs. 13oz.) and **Sydney Abigale** (6lbs. 5oz.) on August 20, 2004

Lisa and Matt Gorman welcomed fraternal boys **Gordon** and **Jonathan** on



August 25, 2004

Sabina and Arne Perrin welcomed fraternal girls **Gabriel** and **Cassidy** on sisters to **Abigail**

June 17, 2004, little

Alison and Art Speirs welcomed their son, **Asiah**, and daughter, **Leighen** on June 29, 2004

Carol Kurbel welcomed fraternal girls **Mikayla** and **Kelsey** on August 20, 2004

Rosalita and Mario Faccione welcomed **Marco** on September 8, 2004, little brother to **Maia** and **Luca**



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Jodi and Scott Mitchell of Maple Ridge, their daughter **Halle Jessica**, and twin sons **Tyler Alan** and **Jordan Scott** who were born on January 10, 2004

Ivy and Sau Lim of Coquitlam, **Yu-Chen**, and their twin sons **Yu-Heng** and **Yu-Xing** who were born on April 19, 2004

Alexis and Mike McClenaghan of Burnaby, and their twin sons **Max Alexander** and **Liam Neil** who were born on December 18, 2003

Michelle and Dan Mozel of Coquitlam, and their son, **Zachary**, and daughter, **Gabrielle**, who were born on July 6, 2002

Meg and Ivan Torres of Port Moody, their daughter, **Alexandra**, and twin sons **Nicholas** and **Austin** who were born on April 21, 2004

Sherry and Roy Van Beest of Coquitlam, and their twin daughters **Julianna** and **Christina** who were born on November 10, 2003

Welcome to all of you! We are so happy that you've joined our Club and we hope that you will forge new friendships and gain valuable advice on living life with multiples.



AND HEEEEEEEEERE'S.....(and this, of course, is our "Member Profile" Section)

Elizabeth Bajcic, Newsletter Co-Editor - I know it's my turn to include my profile in this month's newsletter, but is there any way possible that I could just reprint Robyn's, Brenda's or Nareeta's and substitute my name? Theirs seem so much more interesting and I'm afraid that I'll be kicked out of our Club for being so boring (or just plain lazy, so it seems). I've never really had to tell anyone about myself before, and at our meetings I was quite content to just introduce myself by saying my name and the names of my daughters. But with a little hesitation, I agree with our co-leaders that this column is a great way to get to know our members. So be prepared, we may be calling on you next!!! Now what do I write so as to not bore you? Well, there may be no way of avoiding that so here it goes. Milan and I got used to living life doing what we wanted, wherever we wanted and whenever we wanted so we decided to throw some kids into the mix and see what happens! YIKES! We welcomed fraternal (or for those of you still using technical terms, "dizygotic") girls Alexandra and Maya into our world on September 18, 2002. And despite the roller coaster ride of emotions that we've felt so far, being parents of twins has been a wonderful and amazing experience. So much so that I willingly resigned from my job as a legal secretary in Vancouver (much to the dismay of the lawyers I worked with).

Life with twins has its own challenges (albeit sometimes not any different than working with lawyers) and I am proud to say that I have adjusted quite nicely to being a Mom (thanks, of course, to the help from their grandparents). Aside from enjoying our local parks and playgrounds, we enjoy family outings to the Vancouver Aquarium, Greater Vancouver Zoo, Science World, etc. and I must say that the reaction and smiles I get from them seeing new and different things bring me absolute peace and joy. And that's enough for me to know that I am at least doing something right!

One of the best things I did when I became a Mom of twins was join our Club. My only regret is that I didn't join BEFORE the girls were born because I'm sure I would have learned valuable advice that I didn't have on my own. Unlike my co-editor, SuperMom Robyn, the only volunteer position I currently have is with this newsletter (although for many years I was involved with the United Way Campaign). I'm happy that I took over this position because it helps me stay connected with what's happening in our Club. It's also very comforting to know that there are others out there experiencing the same things I am and whom I can rely on for some friendly advice.

Liz Dustan, Webpage Design & Maintenance – I am a single mother of fraternal (I think) twin girls, Haley and Hannah, born April 16, 2003. We live with my dad and step mom who graciously look after the girls while I work, sleep and occasionally get out and do regular 21 year old things! I enjoy playing with my girls, reading, going for walks, cooking, spending time with my boyfriend and his 3 great kids, but most of all these days I enjoy sleeping! My dad and I are doing the website for the Club, and I have volunteered for a number of other committees as well. I hope the Club helps form strong relationships and long term support networks for parents with the unique challenge of raising multiple children.



COFFEE TIME

Meet new members....make new friends! Take some time and enjoy a cup of coffee with other moms for a couple of hours once a month.

New Moms (under 1 year)

Contact Ivy Lim at (604) 552-3977 or ivyyp@yahoo.ca

Toddler Moms (1 year to 2 years)

Contact Robyn Steed at (604) 465-0666

Toddler Moms (2 years – 3 years)

Contact Michelle Mozel at (604) 936-8946

Preschooler Moms (3 years and up)

Contact Britta Greenwood at britta_greenwood@telus.net

Days and times will vary among the groups, so please contact these ladies directly for further information.

CLASSIFIEDS

***Please note that the following items DO NOT have any descriptions attached. Full descriptions and further information (if provided) can be found in the Forum Section of our website (under Articles Offered and Articles Wanted). Alternatively, please contact the buyer/seller directly.

If you have an item or items that you want to sell or buy, please post the information on the website. Readers will have access to that more often than having it printed only once in our newsletter giving you the opportunity to sell or buy the item(s) you want much quicker.

(con't.)



- **Crib and Mattress, 2 available - \$200 each**
- **Peg Perego "Prima Pappa" High Chair, 2 available - \$100.00 each**
- **Dondolina Deluxe Bouncy Chair - \$75.00**

Contact Tammy Guillemet at (604) 949-0722 or tammy.guillemet@shaw.ca



- **Snugli Bouncer Seats, 2 available - \$25.00 for BOTH**
- **Snap N Go Double LX Double Stroller for Infant Twins (by Swan)- \$75.00**

Contact Heidi Ferriman at heidif@shaw.ca



- **Graco Swing - \$60.00**
- **Bertini Side-By-Side Twin Steerable Pram/Stroller - \$500.00**

Contact Alexis and Mike McClenaghan at (604) 434-3730



- **Graco Duoglider Twin Travel System - \$400.00**

Contact Jodi at (604) 466-3677 or jodicmitchell@yahoo.ca



- **Gap Bear Costume, 2 available - \$40.00 for BOTH**
- **Fisher Price Vibrating Bouncy Seat - \$20.00**
- **Evenflo Exersaucer - \$20.00**
- **Century Assura Infant Car Seat, 2 available - \$60.00 for BOTH**
- **White Change Table - \$40.00**
- **Twin-sized Down Duvet - \$40.00**
- **Crib-sized Down Duvet - \$40.00**
- **Fisher Price Jolly Jumper and Graco Jolly Jumper - \$20.00 for BOTH**
- **Fisher Price Baby Bathtub - \$12.00**

Contact Candace Dyck at (604) 468-1811 or brianandcandace@telus.net

WANTED

- Double Jogging Stroller

Contact Nicole Jung using e-mail link on website.

WANTED

- Toddler Beds
- Training Potty(ies)

Contact Liz Dustan at (604) 466-4813 or liz@cornbury.org

WANTED

- Momsoftots Club Secretary

Contact Robyn Steed at (604) 465-0666, Brenda Stewart at (604) 937-5534 or Nareeta Stephenson at nareeta_stephenson@shaw.ca.



...to our little (and not so little) bundles of joy

Kylie Isaacson	October 3
Brooklyn Baly	October 7
Dante Pecchia	October 16
Manrico Pecchia	October 16
Jonas Borgford	October 28
Abby Janzen	October 29
Matthew Janzen	October 29

...and to the Moms and Dads

Pam Ferguson	October 2
Ione Halladay	October 2

Brad Ross	October 2
Michelle Mozel	October 4
Robert Stephenson	October 4
Irina Tikhanovitch	October 4
Mary Van Geyn	October 11
Heidi Ferriman	October 12
Teri Formosa	October 14
Ivy Lim	October 14
Roy Van Beest	October 15
Janine Macey	October 22
Robert Muller	October 22
Renee Smalcel	October 23
Tracey Smart	October 23
Mark Adrian	October 25
Sadie DiGeso	October 26
Trevor DiGeso	October 28

The above birthdays were taken from our current files, which are currently in the process of being updated. My apologies if you or any family member has been omitted. Please provide us with the details so that we won't forget you next year!

Our response to volunteer requests has been terrific, but there are still some vacancies that need to be filled. We extend a huge THANK YOU to those who have already stepped forward. Your commitment and dedication help make this Club a success. This table has a list of most, if not all, of our committees/groups. Following this newsletter, this information will be made available to you only on our website because it will be redundant and a waste of paper to include this same information month after month after month....in our newsletter.

<p>CO-LEADERS:</p> <p>Robyn Steed – (604) 465-0666 (robysteed@telus.net) Brenda Stewart – (604) 937-5534 (brendawithtwins@telus.net) Nareeta Stephenson (nareeta_stephenson@shaw.ca)</p>	<p>WEB PAGE DESIGN & MAINTENANCE:</p> <p>Liz Dustan (liz@cornbury.org)</p>	<p>NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATORS:</p> <p>Elizabeth Bajcic – (604) 937-7143 (ebajcic@shaw.ca) Robyn Steed – (604) 465-0666 (robysteed@telus.net)</p>
<p>TREASURER:</p> <p>Patty Brnjac</p>	<p>NEW MOM CONTACT:</p> <p>Joanne Blessin (604) 941-1184</p>	<p>LIBRARY:</p> <p>Stored at Church. Contact Brenda Stewart if you have any books or videos that you would like to donate.</p>
<p>PHONE VOLUNTEERS:</p> <p>Elsa Edwards Nicole Jung Sally Lee Ivy Lim</p>	<p>FUNDRAISING:</p> <p>Liz Dustan Elsa Edwards Alison Gignac</p>	<p>CONVENTION 2005:</p> <p>Liz Dustan Cara Muller Cora Naylor</p>
<p>SWAP MEET COMMITTEE:</p> <p>Heidi Ferriman Cara Muller Irina Tikhanovitch</p>	<p>HALLOWEEN PARTY COMMITTEE:</p> <p>Kim Adams Wendy Arnold Elsa Edwards Michelle Mozel Cara Muller Brenda Stewart</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS PARTY COMMITTEE:</p> <p>Wendy Arnold Joanne Blessin Britta Greenwood Nicole Jung Michelle Mozel Alison Speirs Brenda Stewart</p>
<p>SUMMER BBQ COMMITTEE:</p> <p>Tracey Smart Alison Speirs Robyn Steed Brenda Stewart</p>	<p>BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP:</p> <p><i>[your name here]</i></p>	<p>SINGLE PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP:</p> <p>Liz Dustan (604) 466-4813</p>
<p>SCRAPBOOKER FOR CLUB ALBUMS:</p> <p><i>[your name here]</i></p>	<p>CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE:</p> <p><i>[your name here]</i></p>	<p>BABYSITTING POOL:</p> <p>Britta Greenwood (604) 468-7449</p>
<p>HOUSECLEANING POOL:</p> <p><i>[your name here]</i></p>	<p>DAD’S GROUP:</p> <p>Shane Adams Johnny Gazzola Will Steed</p>	<p><i>Thank You</i> </p>