

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Baby Arthur November 2019

Our Blanket of Care: Lives Woven Together

Shelley Morris, CEO



I have always admired people who can knit and weave. At The Cridge Centre, we are gifted with amazing knitters for our babies. Our seniors knit and our school age care program runs a knitting club. There is something so special about seeing a senior's arm around a 10-year-old boy while teaching him to knit! The Bible talks about two friends whose hearts were "knit together" - such a strong bond. Isn't it beautiful to see hearts knit together across generations!

The Cridge Centre history has been knit together across time with experiences and stories that have been so profound. In this issue we are focussing on one such story that has woven in and out of our history for almost one hundred years. Since the 1920s until the present, Baby Arthur's story has been a part of our culture and has

helped to shape and continues to inform The Cridge Centre today.

How can a tiny baby shape an organization for almost a century? The first appearance of Baby Arthur in the life of our organization was a seminal moment. A moment when the "no babies rule" had to be tossed out, choosing instead compassion, generosity, faith and hope. We still valued order and accountability but it was now wrapped in a fresh new cloak of mercy.

Sweet Baby Arthur's presence taught us a lesson that lives on in the life of the organization today. There is a thread from the 1920's firmly woven into our present-day work. Crossing generations and decades and into a new millennium, our hearts thrive and are filled with joy as we continue to

serve children as one of our seven core service areas. To support children with complex needs, children from refugee camps, children entrenched in poverty, children impacted by family violence, children who need to be visible in the community and healthy, happy children too! Giggling children, shy children, mischievous children, courageous children. Silly, wonderful, marvellous, miraculous little people!

Baby Arthur, an adorable little fellow, an overcomer, a inspiration - his arrival on our doorstep was a crucial moment in our history.

Victoria rallied around Baby Arthur, closely following his story, his development and his well-being. Our community has remained

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Baby Arthur: A Story of Abandonment to Connection

Laurie Smith and Andrea Sievers

On June 6, 1925, a young mother crept to the front steps of the BC Protestant Orphans' Home in Victoria, British Columbia, placed a basket on the front doorstep, and fled. That basket contained a newborn baby, a warm bottle of milk and a note that read, "Please keep my dear little baby for me. His name is Arthur. Please don't give him to anyone else and I will be sure and come for him." The basket also contained a card where the name "Arthur" had been written, then torn in half. The mother left one half of the card with the baby and promised to produce the other half when she came back for him. She never returned. That baby was adopted at the age of 4 to a couple from New York and renamed William Arthur Holmes. The story was published in Victoria at the time and later became part of the folklore of the city of Victoria. William, or Bill, as he was known, went on to marry Marie Allen Holmes and have four children: William Jr., Laurie, Andrea and Michael.



Arthur Age 4

In 1990, William travelled to Victoria to visit the orphanage, now The Cridge Centre for the Family, for the first time since 1929. He walked up to the front desk and, to the astonishment of Shelley

Morris, who was working there that day, said, "I'm Baby Arthur." Sadly his visit, and with subsequent help from a professional genealogist, would not yield the information that he sought into the discovery of his birth parents. When The Cridge Centre celebrated its 120th anniversary in 1993, under the direction of then-CEO Colin Moorman, he was invited to attend. The event included a re-enactment of William's arrival on the orphanage steps. Unfortunately he was too ill to go at the time, so his daughters, Andrea and Laurie, went in his place. Several children from the orphanage who had resided here at the same time as William attended the celebration and shared their memories of his baby and toddler years.

That wee fellow left on the doorstep grew up to be a leader in the business world as the Corporate Secretary of Exxon.

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fascinated with his story as it has re-emerged time and time again over the years. Our community celebrated how Arthur's life became so meaningful; he became so giving and caring for others. Arthur was so mindful of his humble start and so appreciative of the care and opportunity he received. We have treasured walking with his family on their renewed and successful search for family connections.

Baby Arthur, an adorable little fellow, an overcomer, an inspiration, his arrival on our doorstep a crucial moment in our history, his little pudgy fist holding one end of a thread that has knit its way through to 2019 and will continue to strengthen us in the years to come.

As an organization, we so appreciate how Victoria rallies around the children we serve today. Those mi-

raculous little souls who can light up a cloudy day with their joy, and those little souls and hearts that have been so often wounded by this world in a few short years. We cannot do this work without your support. As you contribute to our work, you weave your thread into his story, and into the lives of all the children. Just imagine, together we're continually creating the world's strongest, warmest, most protective baby blanket ever knit!

Baby Arthur: A Story of Abandonment to Connection

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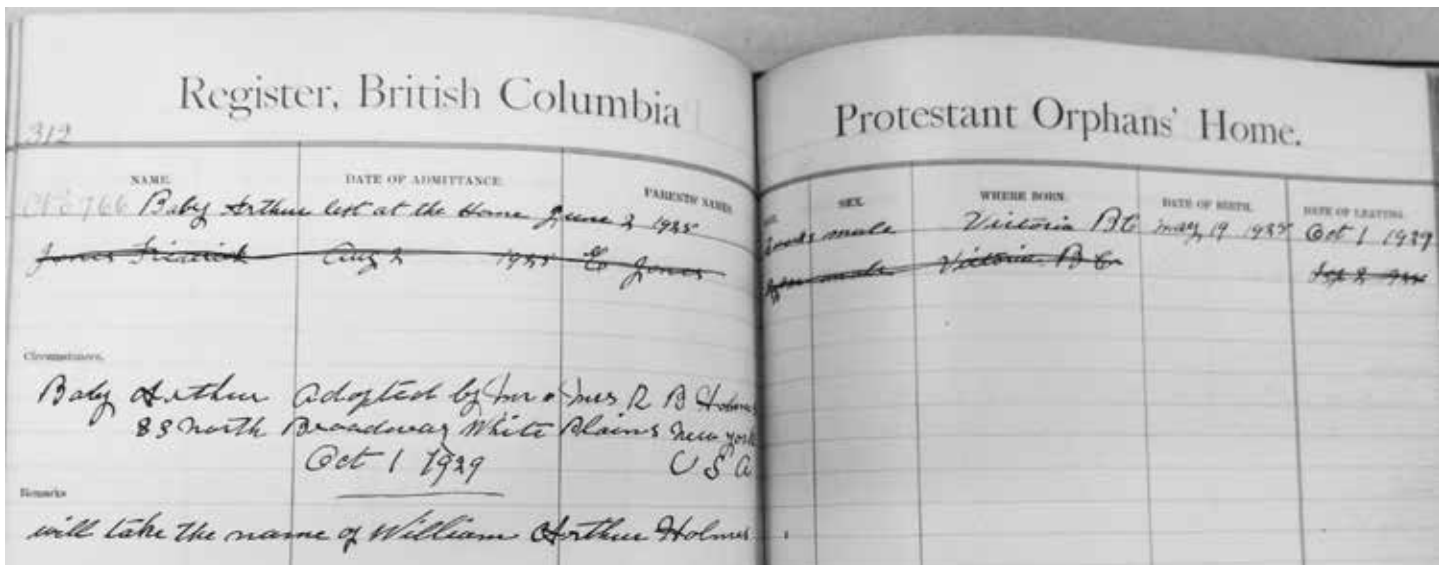
Arthur/William with his adoptive parents

In his final years, William became more and more interested in finding his roots. He knew that the names Lucy Isabel Grant and Albert Harris had been found on a birth certificate, but that's all the information he had to go on. Other records had been destroyed in a fire. Not having access to the internet or DNA testing, which wasn't available to the general public

yet, William never lived to find more about his biological family. But in recent years, several of William's children decided to do DNA testing through some of the genealogy websites, and that changed everything!

At first, no close links were found, but then suddenly a man with the last name of "Eraut" appeared as their close relative. After further investigation, with lots of research and digging, William's family finally found the names of "Arthur's" parents: Lucy Eraut and Albert Harris. The dates all matched with Arthur's date of birth. Lucy Eraut ended up divorcing her husband and the Eraut family was under the impression that she died childless.

Daughters Andrea and Laurie reached out to the Erauts in Victoria who turned out to be cousins with some strong family resemblances. The search came full circle when Laurie and Andrea were able to meet several of the family members at a dinner hosted by Shelley Morris, now the CEO of The Cridge Centre. Media coverage in newspapers, TV and radio allowed these stories to be spread throughout Victoria and beyond and helped to make contact with other relatives who also fit into the Eraut family. Their joy of finding their father's birth family is hard to describe. "We are so grateful to The Cridge Centre, particularly Colin Moorman and Shelley Morris, for assisting us in our search and sharing in our meeting with the Eraut family. We can only imagine that our father is looking down on all of this and rejoicing at our long-awaited family reunion!"



Orphans' Register with Baby Arthur's entry

Chef's Corner

Recipes from The 1920's Orphanage Cookbook

A sweet treat would never go amiss amongst a group of children!

Fudge

2 c.	Sugar
1/3 c.	White syrup
1/2 c.	Milk
1 square or 1 oz.	Chocolate
2 Tbsp.	Butter
1 tsp.	Vanilla

Put all the ingredients, except the vanilla, into a saucepan over the fire. Stir until the chocolate is melted, then cook, occasionally stirring until the mixture when tested, forms a soft ball in cold water. It will take five minutes' cooking after boiling begins. Add vanilla and beat until mixture begins to granulate, then turn into a buttered pan. When nearly cold cut in cubes.



It appears a little shot of brandy for what ails you was the prescription of the day.

(Editorial note - I just got flat ginger ale when I was under the weather! Shelley Morris, CEO)

Egg With Brandy For Invalids

1	Egg yolk
1	Egg white
1 Tbsp.	Sugar, powdered
few grains	Salt
1 Tbsp.	Brandy

Beat yolk until thick and lemon coloured. Beat egg white in separate bowl until stiff; add sugar gradually, continuing the beating; then add beaten yolk, salt and brandy. Serve in small glasses and eat with a spoon.

(Editorial note: The government of Canada and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) consider it safe to use raw eggs if they are pasteurized grade A)

In preparation for
The Cridge Centre's 150th Birthday,
we are having a

TITLE CONTEST

Suggest a title for a commemorative
book about our past, present and future.

Deadline Dec 31, 2019



Email your titles to
jlinka@cridge.org

The Cridge Centre News

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 146th Annual General Meeting of The Cridge Centre for the Family took place September 30, 2019. The elected executives are Val Fuller (President), Ann Wellman (Vice-President), Lynne Ellis (Secretary) and Del Phillips (Treasurer). We also welcome Ken Peters and Mary Jane Spray to the board. We are so grateful to every member of the board for their service and dedication to The Cridge Centre.



Val Fuller (President)



Ann Wellman (Vice-President)



Lynne Ellis (Secretary)



Del Phillips (Treasurer)

WELCOME AND FAREWELL



Welcome to our newest Cridge family member, Rosie Latour, daughter of Tim and Jacquie Latour. And farewell to two of our outstanding staff, Gyneth Turner and Dhruvi Shah as they move on to other adventures. Many blessings!



SUNFUN 2019



We had a fantastically fun summer with our SunFun kids! Thanks for your support for our childcare program!





Triple your impact today!

These happy faces are saying **thank you** to YOU!

Because of YOUR generosity, they are experiencing a life of hope and safety. Your donation means that they have safe housing, employment, care and support, the opportunity to learn and grow AND engagement in their community. That is a lot to be thankful for!



You can continue to make an impact in the lives of our families by donating today! Up until December 30, 2019 (or we reach a total of \$10,000), **your donation will be matched 2:1...** tripling your gift! It is a great time to give – and a wonderful time to bless our vulnerable families.

Thank you for your faithful support!



Please donate today!

All donations up to \$10,000 will be matched 2:1



act justly
love mercy
walk humbly


Thank you to our generous donors who are providing the matching funds!



Another successful Ride for Refuge!

Circle of Care

2019 - 11

 **YES,**
I/We would like to join
The Cridge Centre Circle

Single gift amount: \$ _____

- Cheque enclosed or
- Please charge my credit card

Monthly gift amount: \$ _____

- Void cheque enclosed or
- Please charge my credit card

Gift End Date: _____ **or until further notice.**

Please use my gift as follows: Where needed most. With the following designation: _____

Mr Mrs Ms Other _____ Triple my gift for the Fall Appeal

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ PC: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

VISA Mastercard Name on card: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____/_____/_____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sign also to authorise bank withdrawals

Would you prefer to make your gift anonymous?

All monthly payments will be scheduled the first day of each month. Receipts for your charitable giving tax credit will be Issued annually.

Charitable Registration # 108079419RR0001

The Cridge Centre for the Family collects personal information on this form for reasonable and obvious purposes that meet with regulatory requirements. This information will never be shared, and will never be used for purposes outside of the obvious without your permission.

Please detach and mail this form to:

The Cridge Centre for the Family -- 1307 Hillside Ave. Victoria, BC V8T 0A2
Contact: Joanne Linka, Manager of Communication & Fund Development
250.995.6419 Email: jlinka@cridge.org

Spending of funds is confined to Board approved programs and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when a given need has been met, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts will be acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

The Cridge Centre for the Family is certified by the Canadian Council of Christian Charities and is accredited by the Imagine Canada Standards program.



Upcoming Events

STUFF THE STOCKING

A Christmas fundraiser in support of our Respite program.

**December 13, 2019 at 8-11 am,
The Cridge Centre Seniors' Lounge**

THE CRIDGE CHILDCARE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Closed on December 25, 26 and
January 1st**

**December 24 and 31
Childcare is closing at 3:30 pm**



NOTE: Please double check the accuracy of your name and address and notify Pat Bailey of any changes via email to pbailey@cridge.org or by phone at (250) 995-6410

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