



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

MANNY BATSHAW HONORED !

On October 28th McGill University conferred an honorary doctorate (LLD) on Manny Batshaw, whose name and accomplishments are embodied in our organization. He is the first graduate of the McGill School of Social Work to be honored in this way. Congratulations Manny!

A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE !

On Friday October 2nd, over 130 participants from the network attended a conference at Concordia University entitled "Working Together". Organized by the Quebec Association of Educators, the event was co-sponsored by Batshaw, the Department of Applied Human Sciences of Concordia University and the Douglas Hospital Child and Adolescent Services. The Association of Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP) participated actively as well.

In light of our participation in the "Projet Jeunesse Montréalais", in which working with other organizations will be the central focus, the conference theme of "Working Together" is a timely one. Congratulations to Tony Maciocia and his conference organizing committee. Tony is manager of St. James group home and the Intensive Probation program. He is also a member of the ACYCP board and was a leading force behind the organization of this conference.

ENGORGEMENT-RIVERSIDE

From time to time, Batshaw and other Quebec youth centres live through something called "engorgement". Basically, this means requests for youth to be placed in residential services beds exceeds the number of beds available, necessitating the creation of temporary units. The demand for such beds has traditionally been difficult to predict.

As youth centres, including Batshaw, began to close residential programs and opt for increased preventive and social reinsertion measures, they also became more vulnerable to sudden fluctuations in the number of youth requiring placement.

On October 6th, in response to an "engorgement" situation, Batshaw was forced to temporarily reopen the unit formerly known as Castonguay, under the name "Riverside". When the Northview program moves to Cartier in Laval, and if Riverside is still open, it would move from its current location in Saint-Jérôme to Prévost.

Riverside will close as soon as numbers permit. Between this extra unit and the resources temporarily allocated to the Youth Protection list, Batshaw's discretionary resources are stretched to the limit, as are its staff.

CENTRAIDE

The annual Centraide campaign at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres is once again underway. Our campaign will run from November 2nd to 16th. Centraide supports a number of worthy causes, I call for your support in making good things happen. Donation forms are enclosed, for further information, please contact Kim Kurtz at 989-1885.

CAMPUS RELOCATION PROJECT

In the September edition of *Apropos ...* I referred to the "Campus relocation project". This is a plan Batshaw has submitted to the Regional Board requesting funds, over \$30 million to be exact, to create a campus on the western part of the island of Montreal. No specific site has been chosen yet.

The new location will include the five units presently at the Prévost campus, the two units that will soon be in Laval, the two units for anglophones currently operated by les Centres jeunesse de Montréal at Cité des Prairies and the three units located at Dorval. There will also be an additional unit for "engorgement."

The project is about to receive approval from the Regional Board and will then be submitted to the Ministry. If approved it will be at least five years before the doors open to the campus.

WILL WE EVER REALLY BE BATSHAW?

The short answer is yes. And it could be soon. The obstacle to creating a single corporation called Batshaw Youth and Family Centres has been connected to complications concerning a property transfer at Prévost. On September 2nd, Batshaw Board President, Diane Tsonos, Legal Services Director, Michèle Lefebvre and I met with people from the Ministry on this subject. The result was an agreement on a plan that would permit us to start the merger process by January 1999. I am optimistic that by the summer of 1999 your paycheque will say you work for Batshaw Youth and Family Centres.

A NEW MRMC CHAIRPERSON

At its October 1st meeting, members of the Multiracial/Multicultural (MRMC) Committee named Hedy Taylor as their chairperson for 1998/99. Hedy is a program manager of an Application of Measures team based at the Reddy office. She has extensive experience in issues of cultural sensitivity and adaptation of practice, making her well suited for the MRMC chairperson role.

The Multiracial/Multicultural committee has the mandate of making recommendations to the Executive Director and the Board concerning the adaptation of Batshaw services to the cultural realities of its clients. The MRMC also recommends the training programs needed to enable Batshaw staff to meet this commitment.

If you have questions regarding the MRMC committee, or issues to be brought to their attention, please contact the staff support person, Marcel Croteau at 989-1885.

HOLIDAY PARTY! YIPPEE!

The 4th Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 4th at Auberge Mont Gabriel in the Laurentians. We will have a bus available to transport you to the Auberge and back to Montreal in safety.

Whether by bus or by car, I encourage you to make the trip. Mont Gabriel is very picturesque, and from previous experience, the food is splendid. For further holiday party information, contact France L'Espérance at 989-1885.