



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

ENTENTE WITH DOUGLAS

On May 17th the Executive Director of the Douglas Hospital and myself signed an entente which provides child psychiatry consulting services to the division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents. This fulfills one of the recommendations made in the May 1997 report of the Commission for Human and Youth Rights regarding the Chapel unit. It is a significant addition to the quality of service that the division can offer. There are other similar needs for child psychiatry support at Batshaw. We are continuing to search for ways to meet these needs.

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

On May 21st members of the Batshaw Management Committee had the opportunity to meet the new Minister with responsibility for Youth Protection, Gilles Baril. The meeting took place at his request, and with representatives of the Regional Board present.

There were two very important pieces of information discussed in our meeting. The first is that Mr. Baril has declared his public support for the Batshaw campus relocation project (to bring all four campus sites together, at a single campus site on the western half of the island of Montreal.) Open support from someone of his rank is welcome news indeed. We will be having a follow-up meeting to explore this further, and to map out the plan to obtain formal Ministry approval of the project.

The second piece of news is that Mr. Baril reiterated declarations he has made in the media stating that he wants to see a residential treatment program set up for young anglophones who have alcohol and drug abuse problems. Further, he wants the development of the program to be a joint effort of Batshaw and Portage, a centre with a track record in the field of substance abuse, with which Batshaw already has relationships. Working together with the Regional Board we expect to issue more news about this project in the fall. Mr. Baril stated his hope that the first phase of the project would be operating by December 1999.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

On June 8th, the Batshaw Multiracial/Multicultural Committee organized a Community Resource Fair at 6 Weredale Park. A significant number of community organizations from a wide variety of communities were present to describe the services they offer to their particular communities. This gave Batshaw staff who attended a widened perspective on the resources and supports available in specific communities. Present were representatives from :

- Batshaw's Council for Clients and Community
- Chinese Family Services
- CLAM (A Latino community organization)
- the Ghana Family Council
- FAMUS (Filippino Association of Montreal and Suburbs)
- the Islamic Centre of Québec
- the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal

POW WOW A BIG SUCCESS!

The second annual Pow Wow at the Prévost campus took place on June 19th under clear sunny skies. It was a big success, attended by over 200 Batshaw staff, clients and families, foster families and other interested community members. Animated by the amiable emcee, Lance, the event featured many presentations of Mohawk traditional drumming, singing, dancing and crafts. At the end of the festivities a supper was offered to our guests to cap a splendid day. Several people were presented with plaques to recognize their contributions to the event. Among them were the founder of the idea, Rudy Montour, as well as Batshaw organizers led by Dave Brown. Talks are already under way regarding the 3rd Annual Pow Wow next summer.

HEAD OFFICE MOVES

The renovations of 5 Weredale Park are almost complete. Many of the Guy street staff have already had a first visit to their new accommodations. The renovation is of excellent quality, and a credit to the leadership of the Technical Services group and their departing manager, Paul Nichols. Particularly noteworthy is a space, adjacent to the cafeteria, large enough to hold a good-sized group. This will make an excellent gathering site, and will be available by reservation to Batshaw staff groups all across the organization for meetings and special events.

Moving day for Head Office staff is July 23rd. Notices will appear shortly with information about telephone numbers and other details.

FIRST ANNUAL BATSHAW STAFF FAMILY BBQ!

On Sunday, August 1st, we will have the first Batshaw Family BBQ. It will be held on the grounds of Camp Weredale, a magnificent lakeside camp site on the shore of Lac L'Achigan, not far from St. Hippolyte. Best of all, this event will be FREE, even the food!

The day begins at 10:30 a.m, with games for children at 11, lunch at 12:30, and a not to be missed regatta at 2, things will wind down by 4 p.m. All you have to do is register on the attached form, and be there! I will be there with my family and I hope to see you to help us launch a new Batshaw tradition in splendid surroundings.

BATSHAW'S SOFTBALL AMBASSADORS

As has happened for the last 24 years, at the end of August Batshaw's softball teams will head to Roberval to play in the annual Youth Centres tournament. This year Batshaw is represented by our reigning champion women's team, a men's team, and a mixed team.

The men's and mixed teams are looking for more players. If you are interested in playing, please contact: Bob Davey, men's team / 636-3595 and Fred Anderson / mixed team / 636-0910. Good luck to all!

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

I wish everyone a pleasant and relaxing summer. This edition of *Apropos* is appearing two weeks later than normal. It is a midsummer edition since there will be no *Apropos* in August. We'll pick up on news around and about Batshaw on the first pay in September.