



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At the meeting of March 20th, a nominating committee was struck. Members are James A. Grant, Yves Paprocki, Bill Rowe and Michael Udy. Their mandate is to recommend to the board a slate of officers, as well as the membership and chair of all board committees, including the executive.

The board also approved a resolution to support a request made to Human Resources Development Canada for a grant to hire a summer student at Dorval campus.

Mrs. Ruth Essing was welcomed to the board as representative of the users committee.

CHANGES AT PRÉVOST CAMPUS

In response to an increase in the need for a back-up program to support young people and staff at the Prévost campus, a new unit named Bridges opened on January 29, 2000.

Under the leadership of Program Manager, Scott Nicholls this program carries out the implementation of the back-up policy for all boys placed in campus and community residential programs. This way, young people who have become destabilized in their program have the opportunity to calm down, refocus and return to their program. Depending on the individual situation, stays would range from a few hours to a maximum of three days. It is expected that Bridges will contribute to stabilizing individual clients as well as the atmosphere in residential services.

BYFC LIBRARY

The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Library is open for business. Located at 6 Weredale Park the library hours are 8:30 am to noon, 1pm to 4:30 pm, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and alternate Thursdays. Requests can be sent through internal mail, e-mail or faxed at (514) 939-3609 or by calling Janet Sand (Librarian) at (514) 932-7161 ext. 468.

BYFC CAFÉ

The Café is now open daily at 6 Weredale Park, from 8 am to 2 pm and 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm. The menu includes home-made soups, salads, sandwiches, desserts and fresh St-Viateur bagels. You can enjoy good food at reasonable prices in a nice atmosphere.

BLACK HISTORY... A CELEBRATION

On Saturday evening, March 18th, a Gala Evening was organized by the Multiracial/Multicultural Committee to celebrate Black History Month ... A Millennium Celebration. Canadian Olympic athlete Rosey Edeh was honored and entertainment was provided by Claire Jean-Charles and CeCe Walker. A delicious meal was prepared by foster parents and staff. A good time was had by all.

On Thursday, March 23rd, the Multiracial/Multicultural Committee held a panel discussion on Spirituality and the Black Family. The panellists were: Reverend Daryl Gray, Pastor David Mills, Deacon George Anthony, Hawa Conteh and Kathy Faludi. George McKenzie acted as moderator. The participants found the presentations informative and uplifting.

EDUCATORS' WEEK CELEBRATION

The following was contributed by Tony Maciocia.

On March 7th, the *Quebec Association of Educators* (QAE) held an Educators Resource Fair Luncheon. The Resource Fair was a showcase of over 32 programs and services in the English network where educators provide valuable direct services. This included educators who work in schools, and in the psychosocial and psychiatric networks.

The event was extremely well attended with over 150 participants, including major representation from Batshaw staff. Special thanks go to Iris Bélair who prepared an excellent lunch, and to Philip Alleyne and students from Vanier and John Abbott College who helped organize the day. The QAE is looking forward to planning another event in the near future. For more information regarding the QAE, contact Tony Maciocia at 489-3639.

CCC CONFERENCE

On Thursday, May 11th, the Council for Clients and Community (CCC) will hold its annual conference at 6 Weredale Park. The theme this year is "All in the Family". Workshops will discuss issues related to Family-Centered Practice and issues of importance for families, as seen by the CCC. The CCC hopes that you can attend. Registration forms are available throughout the agency. For further information contact Barbara Kemp at 989-1885.

NEW MANDATE FOR THE STE. ROSE PROGRAM

Last year, the group home known as Ste. Rose moved from Ste. Rose to the Prévost campus. This was in response to the observation that more and more adolescent boys referred to Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents needed greater structure.

This year, the same phenomenon has been experienced with adolescent girls. As the occupancy level of boys programs has been lower this year, the Ste. Rose program was converted to a girls structured program in an open setting. These changes illustrate the continuing reality that programs have to adapt to evolving client needs. However, these adaptations are not easily made, it is a credit to the flexibility and professionalism of the staff team of the Ste. Rose program that they have been able to carry out two major program shifts in the course of eighteen months.

THE BRUNSWICK OFFICE MOVES

On April 30th, the Batshaw office at 315 Brunswick in Pointe-Claire will move, but not very far away. The new office is located at 191 Place Frontenac in Pointe-Claire. It is situated on the north side of Brunswick, just east of St. Jean Blvd., opposite the West Island YMCA. The new office will enable Batshaw to provide adequate working conditions for staff, in a location accessible to clients, at a cost that permits a substantial saving of rent.