



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At its June meeting the Board welcomed its newest member, Anna Grafton. Anna filled a co-opted seat on the board. Mother of two children, Anna has held significant financial management posts with The Royal Bank of Canada. She is also involved with the Auxiliary of the Montreal Children's Hospital and the Governing Board of the St. Ignatius of Loyola School.

The board also adopted the report of the auditor for the period April 1st 1999 to March 31st 2000. The year ended with a deficit of \$1,130,238. This was \$315,238 greater than predicted. The Regional Board has indicated that it will assume the entire deficit.

The board also approved a five-year lease renewal for the West Island office, located at 191 Frontenac in Pointe-Claire.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Barbara Kemp contributed the following.

On May 11, the Council for Clients and Community (CCC) held its fifth annual conference with the theme of "All in the Family" - a day of workshops for Batshaw's clients, foster parents, staff, and community. As the title of this event suggests, the theme this year was on the family, especially as it concerned Batshaw's new focus on Family-Centered Youth Protection practice.

The day was a complete success - more than 120 people attended all or part of the day, and the workshops generated some lively discussion. It provided the opportunity for the different perspectives represented in the Batshaw community to get together and exchange concerns and ideas on social service issues. Part of the conference tradition is a BBQ lunch served by staff members from St James Group Home. In spite of the serious concerns under discussion throughout the day, this wonderful lunch break also provided a moment for everyone to have the chance to relax and socialize.

All in all, the CCC members were pleased with the conference. They were very appreciative of how many staff and members of community organizations took time from busy schedules to attend the workshops and they were especially gratified to see so many Batshaw youth participate in the activities. See you there next year!

CONSULTATION WITH THE BLACK COMMUNITY

Last fall, the Black Advisory Committee undertook a consultation concerning community members views and experiences with Batshaw services and staff. Over several months a large amount of information was gathered and summarized in a report submitted to me in March. I met with the Advisory Committee in May and June concerning an action plan that responds to the recommendations of the report, and that will be an integral part of the strategic plan guiding Batshaw's activities in the period 2000-2005. More information about the recommendations and the action plan will be circulated in the fall.

A SUCCESSFUL POW WOW

The third annual Pow Wow held at Prévost campus took place in superb weather on Saturday June 17th. Traditional Mohawk drumming, singing and dancing were featured, along with tables of Mohawk crafts. A traditional hoop dancer from Manitoulin Island made her annual trip to the Pow Wow with new routines in her repertoire. This year, the Manager of Food Services Manager, Silvio Bicari, showed off his legendary carving skills. He created, out of pastry lard, a sculpture of an Amerindian person in a canoe laden with game. The sculpture is at least two feet long and about a foot high. It has to be seen to be appreciated. In fact, it will be put on display at the Head Office at 5 Weredale Park from mid-July to mid-August.

A joint organizing committee for the Pow Wow, led by Dave Brown, Child Care Worker at Prévost, and Rudy Montour, elder of the Khanawake community are to be congratulated for the excellent result of their efforts.

NEW DIRECTIONS FROM THE REGIONAL BOARD

On June 14th, officials from the Regional Board met with the Executive Director of Les Centres jeunesse de Montréal and myself to announce a new initiative. The Regional Board wants to increase the preventive work being done with youth and families in the 29 CLSCs on the island of Montreal in a massive way. The Board's study indicates that there are currently over 700 posts involved in this work in the CLSCs.

The new initiative would see that number increase to over 1600 posts. The largest categories of increased posts will be nurses (342), social work practitioners (335) and child care workers (176). As the Regional Board does not anticipate any new development funds for the Montreal region, efforts to reach the level of 1600 posts are anticipated to come from re-orienting existing staff time in the Montreal network. Between now and November the Regional Board plans to have further discussions with the two youth centres regarding what contributions they can make to this plan.

The Regional Board does not want to compromise any of the efforts required by our legal mandates or the range of preventive services we have put in place to eliminate Youth Protection and Residential Treatment waiting lists. Therefore, at first glance it would appear that any contribution from Batshaw could be expected to be quite limited. Clearly there will be further news about this initiative in the fall.

2ND ANNUAL BBQ AT CAMP WEREDALE

The 2nd Annual Family BBQ for Batshaw staff will be held at beautiful Camp Weredale in the Laurentians on Sunday, August 6th, noon to 4 pm. Batshaw staff are invited to come and enjoy a fun family day which includes a free BBQ lunch and great swimming. Camp staff give their time graciously to provide lifeguarding and support the day. Bring your bathing suit, towel and sun screen. Hope to see you there. For further information contact Kim Kurtz at (514) 932-7161.

June/July 2000