



# Apropos...

## Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

### YOUTH HORIZONS FOUNDATION CAMPAIGN

Every November the Youth Horizons Foundation conducts its annual fund raising appeal. Individuals and corporations are encouraged to give to the Youth Horizons Foundation, which in turn provides financial support to all Batshaw programs.

In 2000-2001 the foundation hopes to raise \$190,000 to fund the following projects for youth at Batshaw:

- ◆ \$120,000 operating subsidy to Camp Weredale;
- ◆ \$30,000 for the Lois Daly Scholarship Fund for youth who have been in care and would like to continue their education;
- ◆ \$15,000 for the Helping Hand fund, which helps youth who are leaving care;
- ◆ \$20,000 for Special Project Funding.

Attached to this edition of Apropos is a donation form. I encourage all staff to contribute to the Youth Horizon's Foundation. Funds go directly towards assisting Batshaw youth and families. A simple \$2 deduction per pay through the payroll deduction plan, will provide a \$52 donation. Please support this worthy cause.

### LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Long Service Recognition week is around the corner, with events scheduled throughout Batshaw during the week of November 20th to November 24th.

On Monday, November 20th, the staff with over 30 years of service will meet board members and look back over the ups and downs of long career spent working with children and families. Throughout the week, each division will hold events to recognize those staff who have reached the 7 and 15-year milestones. On the evening of Thursday, November 23rd, those staff with 20 years or more of service will gather for a dinner at the Badminton and Squash Club. On this occasion a gift of appreciation will be presented to all those staff with 25 years or more of service.

### NEW RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM

In the spring of 1999, Gilles Baril, the Minister delegated for Youth Protection, announced new funding for a residential treatment program for young anglophones with substance abuse problems. Since that time discussions have taken place with Portage, a well-known treatment centre for people with substance abuse problems, with the participation of Batshaw and the Regional Board.

At a recent meeting we were pleased to learn that ministry funding for this program has been increased. This additional funding, together with funds raised by Portage from private sources, have led the Regional Board to inform Minister Baril that implementation of the program can proceed. It is anticipated that the new program will be ready to take its first client early in the new year. The location and starting date of the program will be announced shortly in Apropos.

### ANNUAL BATSHAW INFORMATION MEETING

On Monday, October 16th, the Batshaw board held its 8th annual public information meeting. The annual report from the president of the board, the executive director, and the divisional directors was presented. Following the meeting there was a presentation by Pierre Lamarche, Executive Director of the Association of Youth Centres of Quebec, regarding the future agenda for the development of Quebec Youth Centres. This agenda focuses heavily on consolidating and improving services to clients, the training and supervision of staff, the implementation of an integrated client and management information system, and the consolidation of Youth Centres finances. The future development issues of Batshaw follow this agenda very closely.

Board members, staff and members of the public in attendance were especially pleased to have the opportunity to chat with Manny Batshaw.

### HOLIDAY PARTY 2000

Preparations for the Batshaw staff holiday party are well underway. The party will take place Saturday, December 16th, at the Badminton and Squash Club. Register early for your place at the party as it promises to be a very enjoyable event.

### COLTON HOME

On September 14<sup>th</sup> family members, former colleagues, friends, and staff from the Oxford Group home and division of Placement Services for Young Children gathered at the group home. The purpose was to provide a commemorative occasion in memory of Robert Colton, and to officially announce the renaming of the Oxford Group home as Colton Home. Some 30 people attended this moving and uplifting event.

### WORLD AIDS DAY

*Contributed by Barbara Kemp*

Friday, December 1st is World AIDS Day. Batshaw, through its Task Group on Youth Sexuality, has asked that all units and points of servicere remind staff of the important concerns raised by the AIDS virus, especially as it affects the vulnerable population of young people served by this agency. Also, the youth associated with Batshaw have been encouraged to submit some personal work, such as a drawing or essay on AIDS relating to this year's theme for the day which is "You Can Make the Difference".

On December 1st there will be a special noon-hour program in the auditorium at 6 Weredale Park in recognition of World Aids Day. All Batshaw staff are invited to attend. There will be a short presentation by youth from one of the units who took part in the LYLO pilot project - a project which incorporates the use of creative arts in fostering healthy and wholesome sexual attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours, which influence how young people relate to one another. The work of youth who have submitted projects on the subject of AIDS will be on display in the auditorium. The event promises to be a special one. The program will start at 12:15 and will end no later than 1:00 p.m., cake and coffee will be served.