



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

STUDENT PLACEMENTS: CHANGING OF THE GUARD

(Contributed by Jeroo D. Irani, Manager, Professional Services Division)

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres has had a long and enriching experience providing placements for students in the helping professions. Our main focus has been on students in Social Work and Child Care/Special Care Counselling. Students wanting experience in Therapeutic Recreation, Education, Art and Drama Therapy, Criminology, Psychology and Counselling have also been placed, mostly in the residential services divisions. The main teaching institutions which have been our partners for social work have been McGill University and Dawson College. In child care education and special care counselling, Vanier, John Abbott and Champlain CEGEPs, have had a long association with us.

The supervision of students has been generously provided by our staff who have given their time, energy, knowledge and dedication to guide students in their chosen professions. In the academic year just ended, we have had 22 Social Work students, (McGill 19, Dawson 3) supervised by 19 staff members. In Child Care/Special Care Counselling in 13 residential units, there are 26 students, (Vanier 13, John Abbott 11, Champlain 2).

The responsibility for student placement and orientation has traditionally been with the Professional Services division. The Human Resources and Administrative Services division will now assume these responsibilities. Anna Renda is the Student Co-ordinator since June 1, 2001, and Kim St. Hilaire will develop the Orientation Programme. Anna can be reached at 989-1885.

As the Social Work Student Co-ordinator for several decades, on a personal note, I would like to thank all the supervisors and members of the co-ordinating committee for their support and patience to help me do my job. I enjoyed the freshness and enthusiasm of the students, many of whom are now staff members. My thanks also to the programme managers in Residential Services and Placement Services for Young Children for their patience and support in teaching me about their services and responding promptly to requests from DPS and facilitating placements. It's been fun! Good luck Anna and Kim!

(Editorial comment added by Michael Udy)

As you can see, we are in changing the way we manage field placements to give more support to the Batshaw staff who provide student supervision, and to tie this activity to our staff recruitment strategy. In the meantime we owe many thanks to Jeroo Irani who, over the past several years, singlehandedly gave support to our relationships with the McGill School of Social Work, Dawson CEGEP, and other schools training social service personnel, and to the students and supervisors, all with her inimitable style. Thanks Jeroo!

SUMMER FUN AT CAMP WEREDAILE

The Annual Staff BBQ at Camp Weredale took place on Sunday, July 22nd. Despite gloomy weather reports, about 30 staff, children, their friends and in some cases their grandparents, took in warm winds and water in what turned out to be a very pleasant afternoon.

Swimming, kayaking, hiking, boating and trips in the camp boat provided ample fun for everyone, along with an excellent BBQ lunch. Thanks to Camp Director, Keith Ross and the camp staff for hosting us once again and helping us enjoy the summer.

ANYONE FOR SOFTBALL?

Every summer the Association of Youth Centres sponsors a softball tournament, hosted by one of the Youth Centres. This year it will be hosted by Centres jeunesse Laurentides in the Stc. Jovite / Mont Tremblant area on Friday, August 31st and Saturday, Sept 1st. Any youth centre can field women's, men's and mixed teams. If you would like to participate contact Cathy Carroll at (514) 932-7162, #393 about the women's team, or Bob Davey (514) 636-3595, #101 regarding the men's or mixed teams.

SCHOOL BASED INTERVENTION: TWO COLLOQUES

Batshaw is part of a group of agencies sponsoring two visits to Montreal of Dr. Steve Edwards, well known American educator and administrator. He is the principal of an inner city high school in Hartford, Connecticut. At one time the school was overwhelmed with every conceivable teenage and family problem. Dr. Edwards developed the school staff team and program, and the external partnerships necessary to turn the school around. Today, it is a successful model of what can be achieved. He has important lessons for us about how the education, mental health and child welfare sectors can work together (rather than pass each other their problems). As well as how we can prevent problems from becoming worse, and make significant improvements in the school climate, and the lives of individual students and their families.

Dr. Edwards will be here on Wednesday, August 15th to address school principals, administrators and agency supervisors. He will return on Thursday, November 15th, as the pre-conference speaker at the teachers' convention, to speak to teachers, mental health and child welfare front line workers, and anyone else who is interested. In addition he will be available to give consultations to the staff teams from different schools.

Batshaw's partners in this endeavour are the Social Service Department of the Montreal Children's Hospital, Park Extension CLSC, Baron de Hirsch Institute, the Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec, the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers, the Lester B. Pearson School Board, and the English Montreal School Board. If you are interested in attending, call your divisional contact person.

A GREAT POW WOW

The Fourth Annual Pow Wow was held at Prévost campus on Saturday June 23rd. For the first time in the history of the event, the weather was uncooperative and activities had to be moved under the covered rink. The weather reduced attendance, but those who were there were treated not only to the usual good food and crafts booths, but also the best program of First Nations drumming, dancing and music that we have ever had. Our thanks go to Prévost staffers Dave Brown, Merv Atta-Segal and Andy Simon, along with Kahnawake community members Rudy Montour and Hazel Mayo. Congratulations all around on what is becoming a solid fixture on the Batshaw calendar, as well as the Pow Wow circuit.

I wish all of you and your families, a restful and interesting summer. Charge your batteries for a very interesting year that lies ahead.

BATSHAW EVENTS CALENDAR

- August 31st & Sept 1st ACJQ Softball Tournament**
For further information contact:
Cathy Carroll 932-7162, #393 or
Bob Davey 636-3595, #101.
- September 5th Youth Court Golf Tournament**
For further information contact:
Claude Lamoureux at 273-9533.
- September 14th Batshaw Staff Golf Tournament**
For further information contact:
David Ney at 932-7722.
- September 17th Batshaw Board Meeting**
6 Weredale Park, 18:00 hrs
For further information contact
Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885.
- October 15th Batshaw Board Meeting & Annual Information Meeting**
6 Weredale Park, 18:00 hrs.
For further information contact:
Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885.