



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

YOUTH HORIZONS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The Annual Youth Horizons Foundation fundraising campaign begins this month. Attached to your pay envelope is a message from Foundation President, Judy Martin and myself encouraging you to give to this worthy cause, and encourage others to do likewise. It is Batshaw's clients who will benefit directly from your generosity and support.

Last year, the Foundation disbursed close to \$200,000 to assist Batshaw clients. The Foundation has plans to expand the scope and volume of its support to our programs and clients, based on anticipated success in increasing the funds raised. I donate to the Foundation and I encourage you to do likewise. It's another way to help.

BOARD APPROVES ORGANIGRAM CHANGE

On Tuesday, September 24th, the board approved a recommendation from the Programs and Services Committee and the BMC to transfer the Application of Measures service from Michael Godman's Division of Youth Protection to Louise Jessop's Placement Services for Young Children Division, which will be renamed. The change is effective October 1st.

This change encompasses the eight teams which carry out application of measures, their coordinator, program managers and support staff, and the supervised visit program. The Family Preservation programs, which also carry out application of measures, will not be affected by this proposal and will stay in the Youth Protection division. There will be no change to the existing arrangements for application of measures in residential programs.

There is no increase or decrease to service or staffing levels. The objectives of the transfer are to create conditions to improve service. More management time will be available to focus on issues related to application of measures including waiting lists, use of intervention planning and coordination with community resources. It will also facilitate work on defining and implementing Batshaw's approach to permanency planning. Existing initiatives concerning PIFA will be easier to develop and/or coordinate under the proposed arrangement. This will allow continuation and intensification of a focus on the prevention of and the careful use of placement of young children which began with the reorganisation of 1998-9.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Friday, September 14th, close to 90 staff and associates turned out on a truly splendid day to once again master, or curse, the challenges of the Bonnybrook golf course near Saint Jérôme.

The foursome of Fred Spencer, Nick Paré, Alan MacFarlane and James Alexander carried away, for the second year in a row, the trophy for the best score in this "best ball" format. There were detractors who felt the foursome's creativity in math was better than their score, but golf seems to generate this kind of jealousy. Capped by a delicious supper and door prizes donated by generous sponsors, the day was a testament to the organizational skill and dedication of David Ney and his large band of volunteers. Well done!

SOFTBALL

On Friday and Saturday, August 31st and September 1st, the brave Batshaw mixed softball team went up against competition from other youth centres at the annual Québec youth centres softball tournament. This year's results were, well, disastrous if you go only by games won. But we went by the amount of fun we had in the wilds of Saint Jovite, so we were all winners. Our thanks to coach Bob Davey for his organizing efforts, and his patience. We'll get 'em next year. PS: Congratulations to Cherie Beluse for being the only member of the team to master spinning upside down on the 'Vertimax', a device set up in the parking lot of the hotel to distract those not doing so well on the field.

BATSHAW AND EDUCATION

On August 15th, Batshaw was a co-sponsor, along with the two English school commissions, the Montreal Children's Hospital, and Québec associations of teachers and administrators, of a day long colloque featuring Dr. Steven Edwards from Hartford, Connecticut. Over 200 school principals, administrators, and managers of various child and family intervention programs were in attendance. Dr. Edwards spoke of the value of creating, around the team of people already in a school, an extended team of community resources that can enhance school life, and bring appropriate help quickly to youth and families who need it. It is an example of the notion of "full service schools" that is receiving attention everywhere.

The coalition that Batshaw is part of is bringing Dr. Edwards back on November 15th in the context of the teachers' convention. Then teachers and front-line workers from many kinds of programs will be able to hear him, and see examples of such efforts already under way on the island of Montréal. If this interests you, please contact Mary Lombardi, Human Resources Development at 989-1885.

NEWS FROM PROJECT 10

In February 2001, Project 10 celebrated its 9th anniversary. More than a year ago now, Project 10 became a non profit organization mandated to provide services to adolescent boys and girls and young adults questioning their sexual orientation, or facing difficulties in accepting their gay, lesbian or bi-sexual orientation. It was accredited as a community organization with its own Board and was granted recurrent funding from *Support aux organismes communautaires* (SOC) of the Regional Board. Ville Marie Social Service Centre was instrumental in initiating and supporting this pilot project. A few months ago, representatives of Project 10 and Batshaw signed an agreement to confirm their long term partnership. Project 10 is based at 6 Weredale Park. The coordinators, Pierrette La Roche and Daniel Lanouette can be contacted at 989-4585.

Last year was a consolidation year for Project 10. Last June, Project 10 held its annual meeting which was well attended by its users and volunteers. The outreach to English-speaking teens and young adults was confirmed among its priorities for 2001-2002. Virginia Kerr, child care worker in DRTSA, already serving as a Board member, was elected president of the Board. I invite you to join me to wish her and her team the best of success for the coming year.

BATSHAW STAFF CROWNED QUEEN!

Lenore Catterson, a Batshaw Residence Night Supervisor, was recently named Montreal's Queen of the Carnival 2001. She won this title on June 30 in a competition at Blue Bonnets. She will now travel to Toronto to represent Montreal at their Carnival. Congratulations and good luck!

BATSHAW EVENTS CALENDAR

October	Youth Horizons Foundation Fundraising Campaign continues
October 15th	Batshaw Board Meeting & Annual Information Meeting 6 Weredale Park, 18:00 hrs For further information contact: Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885.
October 22nd	AMCAL Conference For further information contact: Mary Lombardi at 989-1885.
November	Staff Appreciation Week Week of October 29 th to November 2 nd For further information contact: Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885.
November 1st	Staff Appreciation Dinner For further information contact: Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885.