



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

VICTIM IMPACT PROGRAM

(Contributed by Phil Alleyne, Child Care Worker, Victim Impact Program)

On November 29th, the Victim Impact Program (VIP) held a special "Community Give Back" session. The nine week program works with young people to help them recognize the impact of their actions on people in the community. People who have been victims of crimes, as well as other guest speakers come and speak to the group.

At the last session young people are expected to volunteer their services to the community. The youth involved in this VIP group decided to hold a special recognition event to thank the police officers and other speakers who had come to address them through their nine sessions. Young people also decided that because of the September 11th events in the United States, they would thank the local Fire Department and Urgences-santé.

Plaques were presented to Tullio Simbolli and Patricia Ann Bourgeois, Police Station 11; Nathalie Hervieux, Police Station 25; Douglas R. Lion, Côte St. Luc Fire Department; and Janice Clarini, Vanier Special Care Counselling.

Present from Batshaw were Nick Paré, Julia Paré, Kim Kurtz, Tony Maciocia, and Helen Downey. The Victim Impact Program was created by the staff of Intensive Probation and Young Offenders Services (YOS). Staff of the Victim Impact Program are Wayne Quartz, Tanya Johnson and Nelson Pimentel from YOS; Sam Barile and Phillip Alleyne, from Intensive Probation. The program operates out of St. James Group Home.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL DAY

On Friday, November 23rd, the Multidisciplinary Steering Committee held an all-day event for its members, participants could choose from presentations on:

- the Toronto Parenting Guidelines
- Intensive Probation and Intermittent Custody
- Aggression Replacement Therapy
- the Multiracial/Multicultural Committee and its work
- the new Client Information System
- the Youth Court process
- Conjugal Violence
- the Suicide Protocol
- Therapeutic Foster Homes

What was particularly notable about the day was that it brought together in one place information about a number of exciting and progressive projects that are being pursued by Batshaw staff. It showed to what extent there are experts emerging at Batshaw on a variety of important subjects, experts who are working closely with others elsewhere in Québec and in North America. The day was an impressive testimony to the dedication and the expertise of our staff.

Druscilla Johnson is to be thanked for her efforts in organizing the day, one I hope will be repeated next year.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BILL 28

We now have a better idea as to how Bill 28 will affect Batshaw. Our Board, which currently has 20 members, will in future have 16 members. The Regional Board will name four members according to certain criteria. We will continue to have three members elected by the population (down from 4). The Council for Clients and Community will name one person (down from 2). The Multidisciplinary Steering Committee will name one of its members (there used to be 3 in the staff category). There will continue to be a person named by the Foundations. The owning corporations will name one person (down from 3). The members will continue to co-opt three more members (down from 6). The Executive Director will continue to be a member of the board. While there are a number of changes, it appears that it will still be possible to create a board that reflects the community, and one interested in Batshaw's future.

Contrary to the first announcements, the Batshaw board will continue to have the power to choose the Executive Director. The changes to the Batshaw Board will be implemented in the summer and fall of 2002.

GIVING NATURE A HELPING HAND

(Contributed by Roy Durant, Manager of Prevention, Safety and Security)

On Monday, November 19, 2001, a rehabilitated bird of prey was released into the environment. CRAL, the *Centre de réhabilitation de la faune aviaire des Laurentides* recently approached Batshaw to request permission to use our Prévost property for this event and similar events in the future. We agreed and requested that perhaps a partnership of sorts could be forged.

After some discussion, it is likely that our youth at the Prévost campus who have "community hours", may provide service to CRAL. As well, our students in Mountainview may learn through lectures from this group and be invited to witness the release of these noble birds into the environment.

Today's release of a "Chouette Rayée" or "Striped Owl" was attended by the *directeur de la Protection de la faune des Laurentides de la Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ)*, the *ministre secrétaire d'état aux régions-ressources et député de Prévost* and the mayor of Prévost. This group was also joined by a teacher, some staff and youth from the Prévost campus.

What a remarkable moment to witness a bird, injured on our property, rescued by a hiker, delivered to the CRAL clinic and now returning to the wild. As the CRAL representatives pointed out, we should share, as we are in the same business ...rehabilitation.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

At the beginning of November Batshaw held its Second Annual Staff Appreciation Week. Receptions were held in Montréal and Prévost at which certificates were presented to staff who had reached either seven or fifteen years of service. This year 27 staff reached 7 years of service and 36 staff reached the 15 year mark.

On Thursday, November 1st, we held the reception and dinner for all staff that have reached 20 years or more of service. We now have 263 people in this group. Keeping in mind the fact that our total staff complement on any given day ranges between 1,000 and 1,100, this means that a quarter of our staff have 20 years or more of service!

This is a very substantial bank of experience and dedication for an agency to draw on. About 180 of this group were in attendance. After a very pleasant meal Board President Bill Rowe and myself presented 38 certificates to staff reaching 20 years, 10 to staff reaching 25 years, and 9 to staff reaching 30 years. Gifts were also presented to those reaching 25 or 30 years. The feedback I received indicated this event was a very positive experience. We plan to continue our recognition practice every fall.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

I would like to convey to all readers my best wishes for the holiday season. May you have opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment with family and friends. I give you my best wishes for the coming year, which I hope will be one in which you can make progress on your personal goals, and that you'll be in a position to contribute to the pursuit of our collective goals at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. Happy Holidays!

BATSHAW EVENTS CALENDAR

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| December 15th | Annual Staff Holiday Party
For further information contact:
Ola Dupelycz at 932-7161 |
| December 17th | Batshaw Board Meeting
6 Weredale Park, 18:00 hrs
For further information contact:
Thérèse Gauthier at 939-1885 |