



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2002

Once again, Batshaw is hosting and promoting a number of activities to celebrate Black History month. You are invited to participate. Seven Batshaw staff members and members of the community gave a highly interesting presentation entitled "Black Cultures Connecting" on Friday, February 8th. We learned about commonalities and differences in the experience of people of color from African, Caribbean and North American cultures.

The talent show is scheduled for Friday, February 15th at 6 Weredale Park. Next is the fantastic lunch prepared for 6 Weredale Park on Friday, February 22nd, and the special lunch, speaker and entertainment at Prévost campus on Tuesday, February 26th. By the time you read this some events will have taken place. If you haven't yet, make sure to catch at least one event and your eyes will be opened to the rich cultures and experience that are alive and thriving in the Batshaw community.

YOUNGSTERS WITH EAGLE EYES

(Contributed by Ron Golfman, Manager, Prévost campus)

On Saturday, January 26th, 2002, Mark and Mike, two youngsters from Lindsay cottage, were looking out their windows after bedtime at the mountains surrounding the campus. They spotted a light flashing on and off from the cliff. They concluded that it might be someone in distress so they went to speak to the staff. The staff took their information seriously and notified security, who, in turn, thought the call valid, and contacted the local police to check it out. The police responded and discovered a man in his 20s who was quite depressed and apparently had been out in the cold for several days, wandering around despondently. The alertness of these two young men enabled the police to rescue him.

Mark and Mike will be honored at a presentation at the Prévost United Church on February 17th. Parents and Lindsay staff will attend, along with our boy group. Congrats to our young heroes.

CREATION OF THE BYFC FOUNDATION

On Wednesday, February 6th the board members of the Youth Horizons Foundation took the momentous decision to change the name of the Foundation to 'The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation.' This change has been in development for nearly two years. Parallel to the creation and integration of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, the Youth Horizons Foundation has evolved from being a foundation focussed on the residential clients of Youth Horizons programs, to one lending support to all residential clients of Batshaw, and now being one providing support to all of Batshaw clients, whether in residential care, foster care, or in their own homes in the community.

To support this shift in focus, the Foundation has adopted a business plan to expand its fund raising efforts, with the goal of more than doubling its results. Today, the Foundation raises about \$150,000 annually. The goal of the business plan is \$400,000 annually. This move forward is good news for the clients of Batshaw and the staff working to support them as the foundation widens the additional support it can offer. Our appreciation goes to Board President, Judy Martin, Foundation Executive Director, Howard Martin, and all 29 board members for their commitment to our mission.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At its December 2001 meeting the board named Norman Wale its new Vice President. Mr. Wale occupies one of the coopted seats on the Board, and is a retired Vice President for Strategic Planning from Canadian Pacific Industries. He replaces Alan Aitken who has ably acted as Vice President since September 2000.

At the same meeting the board asked the executive committee, with the help of Leon Essing and Anna Grafton, to prepare a plan for the transition that will take place later this year. The board format we have now will change to the one created by the passage of Bill 28 in June 2001. Changes will include our number of board members dropping from 20 members down to 16. The executive committee will also look at how the board might best function in the changed environment. Later in the meeting the board approved the Information System master plan which will enable us to complete our PC network, and implement the integrated client information system know as PIJ (Projet integration Jeunesse), about which you also receive separate newsletters from time to time.

The board also approved a request for membership in the Community Health and Social Services Network. This network, with about 20 institutional members, is a coalition of agencies from different regions of Québec who have a common interest in enhancing access to health and social services in English in Québec. One of the projects being studied is the use of videoconferencing equipment to facilitate such access where distance poses significant obstacles. Such a pilot project is currently being examined for Batshaw.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK: FEBRUARY 10-16

(Contributed by Ed Potter-Mäl, Coordinator, Division of Professional Services)

The theme this year was "Close our eyes on suicide? Never! Suicide is everybody's business". Some facts that should concern us:

- ♦ Suicide is the most frequent cause of death for Quebec youth between the ages of 15 to 19.
- ♦ Almost a third of Quebec youth of 18 years of age and younger who committed suicide in 1995 and 1996 had received services from Youth Centres.
- ♦ Quebec youth receiving services from Youth Centres are between 5 to 13 times at higher level of risk to commit suicide than other Quebec youth.

On the official day of the launching of the suicide prevention week, Claude Laurendeau, Kees Maas and Ed Potter-Mäl of the Professional Services Division made a Grand Round presentation at the Montreal Children's Hospital on the Provincial and the Batshaw Suicide Protocols. Posters placed in all service points encouraged everyone to reflect on the topic during the week. Also, Batshaw's draft policy on the handling of suicidal behaviours has been launched for validation, with the aim of tabling a policy for board approval by Spring 2002.

BATSHAW EVENTS CALENDAR

March 18th Batshaw Board Meeting
6 Weredale Park, 18:00 hrs
For further information contact:
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