



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES!

(Contributed by Ian Page, Program Manager of Northview)

The Montreal Canadians own offensive star, Oleg Petrov took time out from his busy schedule last week to visit the young men at Northview. After a tour of the facilities, Oleg joined staff and kids in the unit for a long lunch and lots of questions. Because of the nature of his profession and Mr. Petrov's own gentle demeanour, boys found it easy to warm up to him and bombard him with inquiries. Oleg took the time to answer every question and make a point of stressing the discipline required to fulfill one's dream and the importance of reaching for that dream. In addition to signing autographs and posing for pictures, Oleg Petrov brightened the day with his presence and inspiration and the Northview staff and boys thank him for that.

BATSHAW HOSTS A VISITOR FROM CHILE

(Contributed by Carlos de Castro, Human Relations Agent, Application of Measures Service, Division of Child and Family Services)

Many of you saw me visiting different departments in our agency with a lady for three days in the last week of January 2002. This lady, Mrs. Madalena Lios, is part of a delegation from Chile that visited some of the youth centres in Quebec. Mrs. Lios is a part of a project called ECCO, a collaborative project between the Canadian and Quebec governments. The project was set up after the government of Chile visited several countries looking for Youth Protection and Young Offender's laws and services suited to their needs. Quebec was chosen because we have a Youth Protection Act; a Young Offenders law; a Charter of Rights and Freedoms; a philosophy of Youth Protection that is shared with the Quebec society; a well-defined institutional structure; and experienced workers.

The ECCO project is aimed at supporting the legal and institutional reforms that Chile is undertaking in the domain of youth protection and young offenders. Our agency, being part of the l' Association des Centres jeunesse du Quebec was invited to be part of the project. Our contribution was to welcome to our agency Mrs. Madalena Lios, a psychology graduate, with twenty years of experience in the youth field. Mrs. Lios reported that her three days at Batshaw were very interesting. It gave her an opportunity to compare services and realize that Quebec is many years ahead of Chile. She stated that she was not here to copy the Quebec model but to understand how it operates, its methodology and general practice. The Chilean government does not want to copy the Quebec model because their culture is very different and they have fewer resources (i.e. money, specialized personnel). She also was very interested in how the youth and family models work in the context of individual rights.

Mrs. Lios told me that everyone she contacted at Batshaw was very welcoming, shared much with her and she was very thankful for this. It was an unforgettable experience. For me, I was very happy and excited to be invited to represent our agency in this project and be able to welcome a person from the same Latin origins. I was proud to be part of Batshaw Youth and Family Services and the vast number of experienced and talented workers that we contacted. These people opened their departments to us in a very warm and informal manner. I also got to know several parts of Batshaw that were not familiar to me. On behalf of the ECCO project and Mrs. Lios, we would like to thank the whole agency for supporting this project 100% and contributing to the success of this special visit.

AGGRESSION REPLACEMENT TRAINING SPRING CONFERENCE

(Contributed by Robert Calame, Human Resource Agent, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

Batshaw's commitment to work on skills acquisition objectives, for youth and families who receive our services, continues to move forward. Training for the Aggression Replacement Training (A.R.T.) program for educators and other Batshaw staff, has been offered in 16 different services in the agency with overall positive results. The program offers practical training adaptable to child care practice. Newly trained teams have quickly begun to apply A.R.T. and have done innovative work to operationalize the program in their own particular situation.

To further support the process of A.R.T. implementation across the agency, a conference was planned with Dr. Arnold Goldstein and some of his associates from the International Centre for Aggression Replacement Training (I.C.A.R.T.). Unfortunately, Dr. Goldstein died on February 16th after a valiant fight with cancer. His memory will live on through the army of A.R.T. enthusiasts around the world. In his memory, the Batshaw A.R.T. conference will take place with I.C.A.R.T. associates Mark Amendola and Robert Liver on May 22nd and May 23rd, 2002. The conference will be carried out in collaboration with the Québec Association of Educators and les Centres jeunesse de Montréal. In addition to our own staff, we have been working with Montreal and Quebec regional school boards and other organizations to promote their participation in the conference. Flyers will be posted and circulated in the coming weeks. Hope to see you there!

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At the February 18th board meeting, the following motions were approved: to begin the Central Archives construction project at 6 Weredale, to carry out improvements to various parts of 6 Weredale, to complete the renewal of the water supply system at Prévost, and to identify to the Regional Board the priorities for future major renovations and equipment replacement. The Board also approved the new policy concerning staff as foster parents. In summary, the policy is that Batshaw staff cannot act as foster parents for Batshaw clients, unless exceptionally approved by the Director of Professional Services, on recommendation of the Director of Child and Family Services, after consultation with the Director of Youth Protection.

BATSHAW EVENTS CALENDAR

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| April 15th | Batshaw Board Meeting
6 Weredale Park, 18:00 hrs
For further information contact:
Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885 |
| April 21-27 | Volunteer Week
For further information contact:
Kim Kurtz at 932-7161 |
| May 16th | CCC Conference
Conference theme: "The child, the family, the agency: Is three a crowd?"
6 Weredale Park
For further information contact:
Barbara Kemp at 989-1885 |
| May 22nd & 23rd | Batshaw Aggression Replacement Therapy Conference
For further information contact:
Robert Calame at 636-0910 |