



# Apropos...

## Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

### STAFF CHILDREN'S PARTY AT PRÉVOST

*(Contributed by elves in various Batshaw locations)*

We will be having a Christmas Party for our employees' kids, grandkids, nieces, etc. The Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 22, 2002 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Prévost Campus. A real old-fashioned Christmas with a sleigh ride and Santa Claus.

You must R.S.V.P. by December 16, 2002, 4 p.m. at (514) 932-7722, with Johanne Richard # 203 or Patsy Sheehan #204. Maximum of 50 kids!

### STAFF RECOGNITION WEEK

The third annual staff recognition week took place at the beginning of November. I had the pleasure to meet with and present certificates and in some cases gifts to many staff who have reached 7, 15, 20, 25, 30 and even 35 years of service. On the evening of Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, the dinner for those staff with 20 years of service and more was held at the Atwater Club. It was a great success. One hundred and sixty staff were present to enjoy a very convivial atmosphere, and to witness the comedic talents of Board President Jim Grant, who, to the delight of everyone, pulled apart the speech I had written for him and delivered his own highly original and very funny remarks.

### EQUIP

**(Batshaw's New Preparation for Independence Program)**

*(Contributed by Danny Hoelscher, educator, Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)*

Preparing youth for the move into independence has always been one of our greatest challenges. *L'Association des centres jeunesse du Québec* has launched a pilot project (*Projet Qualification des Jeunes*) that we at Batshaw are calling EQUIP (Ensuring Qualifications and Independence Program) to try to address this issue. A team of eight educators along with provincial coordinator, Amélie Morin, have been assigned to work intensively with eighty youths (ten for each worker) from age sixteen until the age of eighteen. Educators Carol Ann Milch and Danny Hoelscher have already begun working on this exciting project. Ideally the same ten children that begin participating voluntarily in the program will be followed throughout the three-year time frame. Participating youths will benefit from intensive work done, including support links set up with family and community resources, help finding and maintaining employment and all other facets of independent living. Any youth who may benefit from this program can be referred to either Danny Hoelscher (6 Weredale Park) or Carol Ann Milch (Prévost Campus). For more information please call Carol Ann or Danny.

### MDSC PROFESSIONAL DAY:

**A TRADITION IN THE MAKING!**

*(Contributed by Anne-Marie Carrière, Child Care Worker, Bourbonnière, and member of the MDSC)*

The Multidisciplinary Council Professional Day was a big success again this year. Our thanks go to the organizers, Sandra Carruthers, and Kees Maas, and to their helpers, Joanne Marcotte and Kim Kurtz, and to the numerous individuals whose presentations were much appreciated. Jean Tremblay and his team were also involved in the success of this day by making sure that all the rooms were ready amidst the major renovations ongoing in 6 Weredale Park.

We want to thank all participants as well. The attendance was twice that of last year and the variety of topics was very well received.

We are already beginning to look at organizing next year's Professional Day. We are sure that the participation will be just as rich. It was suggested that we might open this day to individuals outside Batshaw. The MDSC would be happy to receive ideas for presentations in 2003.

### YOUTH CENTRE REPORT CARD COMING!

In the November edition of *Apropos*, I advised you that the government was in the process of preparing a report card on the province's youth centres, much in the style of the ones on hospitals published in the newspapers last September. By the time you read this you will have seen the report cards on the CLSCs. However, those for the youth centres have been put off until the new year. More news when I have it.

### NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The process of the application of Bill 28 and board renewal continues. Board members elected or designated since October 16<sup>th</sup> are: Ruth Essing (Council for Clients and Community), Joy Lepage (Multidisciplinary Council), James Grant (Owning Corporations), Allan Aitken (Foundations), Ermina Codjoe, Karen Potter-Bienvenu and Judy Martin (Population). The following persons were designated in November by the President and Executive Director of the Regional Board of Health and Social Services: Andrea Larivée (from the milieu of day care centres), Garry Saunders (from the milieu of education), John Dalzell (from the milieu of justice), and Robin Wright (from the milieu of professionals in the child welfare domain, and Professor at the McGill School of Social Work). Sheila Laursen (Board member of CLSC Lac-Saint-Louis, and Director of Community Programs at the Downtown YMCA) was designated by the 29 CLSCs on the island. By the time you read this, the new board will have met to co-opt 3 more members. This will be reported in the January *Apropos*.

### CAMP WEREDALE IS AVAILABLE!

Those of you who have visited Camp Weredale will know what a splendid environment it is. Did you know it is available year round? Teams planning meetings and retreats can use the facilities of the camp. It is also possible to plan outings of client groups that use the camp to sleepover, even in winter! All such arrangements have to be made in advance. Start by communicating with your division director.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

May I wish you and your family a safe and restful holiday season. Recharge your batteries after another year's hard work. I look forward to working with you again in the coming year to benefit children and their families.

### THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>** Staff children's party at Prévost  
Contact: Sam Barile at 514-932-7722 x 277

**January** 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting  
Contact: Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885