



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

BIG BBQ SUCCESS! THE CAR IS GONE!

Last Thursday, June 12th, the weather was perfect and the attendance the best ever for the 3rd Annual Staff BBQ at 6 Weredale Park. Clement Walker serenaded us, MC Ted Larivière insulted everyone in the nicest possible manner, Mix 96 provided the music and the St. James bbq crew served up hamburgers as fast as they could cook them. Loblaw's, Krispy Kreme and Hasbro were among the many sponsors of the event. At last count, over \$3500 was raised just over the lunch hour to help send kids to camp.

Then the big moment came: the draw for the winners in the Lois Daly Scholarship Fund lottery. The big prize, a 2003 Toyota Corolla, was won by Georges Dragonas. The cash prize of \$1000 was won by Henry Gonzalves. Cash prizes of \$500 were won by Gaston Croisetière, Ann Walker, Atlantis, and Josée Mirabella. Cash prizes of \$300 were won by André Brucher, Gaétan Pelletier, Jr., Derek Hannaford, and Magda Naim. The prize for the person who sold the most tickets was won by Claire Clifton-Newton of the Application of Measures Service. Many thanks go to Henri Derome and to his army of ticket sellers and drawing organizers for their months of work for enabling the Lois Daly Scholarship Fund, one of the programs supported by the Batshaw Foundation, to continue to support Batshaw youth enrolled in a job preparation program, CEGEP or university. If you would like to make a contribution to the Fund, or want to know more about it, call Ghislaine Corbeil at 989-1885.

WE WERE OUT OF THE BOX!

(Contributed by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, liaison person in the Executive Director's office with the CCC and FFA)

On May 15, 2003 The Council for Clients and Community (CCC) hosted its 8th Annual Conference, "OUT OF THE BOX". The conference was quite successful, the presentations went well, and we had participation from people representing all segments of the social service network. Our Youth Committee took on the responsibility of one of the Teen Beliefs Workshop and did an extraordinary job. Tony Maciocia and his capable crew gave us a big hand with the BBQ lunch.

The CCC is one of the few Users' Committees organizing conferences on a yearly basis. The participation of its members speaks to the quality of the conference and to the richness of this community.

"THEY NOTICE"

On April 23rd this year, Mrs. Marion Lowe-McLean received the Woman of Distinction Award for 2003 from the YWCA in the category of Community Service.

Mrs. Lowe-McLean is known to the Batshaw community first and foremost as a dedicated foster parent. She has fostered children since 1975. Over the years she has raised her own daughters, cared for her mother and some 17 foster children. In 1999 she began to focus her fostering on young women who were preparing for independent living. In March 2001 Mrs. Lowe-McLean's home was destroyed by a devastating fire. However, afterwards she was able to resume care of two of the young women and help them complete the process of moving off on their own, before deciding to retire from fostering.

Mrs. Lowe-McLean has been very active in other parts of the community. A teacher by training she has had a long association with many schools, including John Grant School and SHAD Academy. She was a founding member of the Québec Board of

Black Educators and the Black Theatre Workshop; a member of The Colored Women's Club, The Congress of Women and The Black Congress of Women. She has prepared training programs addressing racism and tolerance, and explored spirituality through studies in metaphysics and holistic healing arts. Mrs. Lowe-McLean has made involvement in her community her passion and life-work. Who better to honor as Woman of Distinction for the year? At Batshaw she has all our thanks, and our admiration. We are very happy for her that the wider community has taken notice and bestowed honor on her.

CLSCs PARTICIPATE IN COMPETENCY-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM

All of Batshaw's clinical staff and managers are participating in the competency-based training program known as PNF (*Programme national de formation*). Recently, the Federation of CLSCs decided to participate. Discussions between the Montréal Regroupement des CLSC, Centre de jeunesse de Montréal and Batshaw Centres led to inclusion of CLSC case workers and managers. This has begun at Batshaw with participation of CLSC managers in the most recent managers' group. Participation of CLSC case workers in groups with Batshaw front-line staff will likely start in the fall. This will help Batshaw and CLSC staff and managers have a greater common understanding and language in their joint work to protect children and help families.

POWWOW IN THE NORTH!

The 6th Annual Powwow was held on Saturday, June 14th, at Prévost campus. The rain held off and we actually saw the sun, briefly. The First Nations culture shone brightly on the central field at Prévost. The traditional drummers and dancers of several Mohawk communities were there in big numbers. We had a hoop dancer who gave some lessons to some daring young people who tried out this difficult art.

We also had a visit from two throat singers from Inuit communities in the far north of Québec. Their skills are truly fascinating as they imitate the sounds from Inuit life through strange (to our ears) vocals that are both haunting and soothing. The Powwow is now firmly established on the summer Powwow circuit, and the smaller but faithful audience shows this is so. Many thanks to Batshaw's Dave Brown, Merv Atta-Segal and Andy Simon, and Kahnawake's Rudy Montour for their year long organizing efforts. Mark down next year's date right now: Saturday, June 12th, 2004. We can almost guarantee good weather!

CLOTHING DONATIONS

(Contributed by Marcel Croteau, Advisor to the Executive Director)

Please donate the clothes that no longer meet the needs of your family members. Many families that are less fortunate as well as some children in foster care can benefit from this. Since Batshaw's orientation is to not operate such a service in its facilities, I encourage you to donate to the various community organizations that do.

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

August 17th Batshaw Staff Family BBQ at Camp Weredale, 12-4:30 p.m.
For further information contact:
Kim Kurtz, 932-7161, #340