



# Apropos...

## Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

### News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

#### BATSHAW FOUNDATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The annual fundraising campaign conducted by our Foundation kicks off this month. Addressed to our staff, individuals, and corporations in the community, this campaign raises about \$150,000 annually. The funds enable the following assistance programs for children and families:

- o The Lois Daly Scholarship fund (for all Batshaw youth);
- o The Adopt-a-Home program (for group homes and campus units);
- o The Helping Hand fund which
  - o Gives emergency family assistance (for all Batshaw families);
  - o Funds individual recreational or therapeutic needs for individual children (for all Batshaw children);
  - o Assists young people moving into Independent Living (for youth leaving foster or residential care).

Batshaw staff contributions having been steadily rising. I encourage you to make a donation whether by cheque or by weekly payroll deduction. A few dollars will go a long way. For information on how to contribute call Ghislaine Corbeil at 989-1885, local 201.

#### AM FUNDRAISER

On Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Application of Measures service held a fundraising evening at Les Légendes du Forum. Over 100 Batshaw staff signed up for an evening of bowling and arcade games for one low price. Fun door prizes were drawn throughout the evening, and CFCF's Bob Benedetti did on site reports in the early evening to advertise the event. Bowling outings can be hilarious fun for groups, and that was certainly the case that night. We also got an exciting preview of a mysterious new Batshaw Hip Hop group, who apparently will be back on stage at the Staff Holiday Party in December. Congratulations to Josée Mirabella and her organizing committee for a great evening that raised over \$1000 towards the Children's Holiday Party scheduled for Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. The party is held jointly by the Children and Family Services Division and the Foster Family Association.

#### RENOVATIONS FINISHED AT LAST!

The renovations at 6 Weredale Park are finally finished. The project lasted a few months beyond its original schedule, but the wait and inconvenience suffered by all our staff in the building, and their visitors, was worth it. The main entrance has been completely redone, with better waiting areas, meeting rooms and washrooms. In addition, the auditorium has been redone, air conditioned, and has a modern audio-visual system to support meetings and special events. Below the main level there has also been a complete revamping of the gymnasium, and installation of a staff fitness centre, which functions by membership, and already has over 100 members.

Projects of this kind often raise questions to be asked about the financing, particularly whether it has a negative effect on program dollars. The answer is no. Did you know that each year we are invited to submit our construction and equipment priorities to the regional board? When we receive grants for projects (such as 6 Weredale Park) it is from a large envelope of money which is never used for programs, is only used for construction and equipment needs, whether ours or those of another institution.

Sometimes we have to cover some additional unforeseen expenses from our budget. When that happens it comes from inside the Batshaw maintenance budget. That can make maintenance a little tighter, but does not have a significant effect on operations. Monies for clinical services are not touched by this process. This way of operating means we have to spread our projects over several years. But one by one, we are upgrading the buildings we use. Meanwhile, we thank Jean Belhumeur, Jean Tremblay and their team for helping us weather using a building in the midst of major renovations and producing a great result.

#### HOLIDAY PARTY!

Did you know that the Staff Holiday Party, taking place Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> has shifted venue to the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel? Rumors are circulating about exciting new wrinkles to the program. Tickets are now available. Check the intranet for more information, or call France Lespérance at 989-1885.

#### 6 WEREDALE CAFETERIA IN NEW HANDS

After a few years of pioneering the establishment of a cafeteria concession on the main floor of 6 Weredale Park, founder Jill McQuestion retired on June 30<sup>th</sup> to take a rest and pursue other interests. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Nick Argyropoulos took over and we welcome him to Batshaw. Next time you're at 6 Weredale Park stop by to say hello and see what's new on the menu.

#### NEW CARD ACCESS SYSTEM

*(Contributed by Roy Durant, Coordinator of Prevention, Safety and Security in the Human Resources and Administrative Services Division)*

Over the next several weeks, BYFC access will be in transition from 'slide' card to 'proximity' card. All employees will need an ID card that is compatible with the new technology. The 'proximity' card will allow access by simply 'showing' the card to the new reader. The new technology will provide Batshaw Security with a user friendly and secure program for managing building access.

The transition began with 6 Weredale Park and is proceeding throughout all locations. Human Resources has published a schedule indicating the dates and locations for acquiring the new 'proximity' ID card. During this period, all employees will have two cards, as they may need access in different locations. Please be aware that there may be "glitches" as the new program gets 'broken in' and therefore your patience and support will be appreciated.

#### BATSHAW EVENTS CALENDAR

November	<b>Batshaw Foundation Fundraising Campaign</b> Information and donations contact: Ghislaine Corbeil at 989-1885, #201
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Board Meeting</b> Information and donations contact: Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885, #202
November 16 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Substance Abuse Prevention Week</b>
December	<b>ERS Christmas Tree Sale</b> at Fairview Shopping Centre. Information contact ERS at 731-3419
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Staff Holiday Party</b> Information contact France Lespérance at 989-1885, # 204