



# Apropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

## MAMMOTH CHILDRENS' PARTY!

*(Contributed by Josée Mirabella, Coordinator, Application of Measures Service in the Division of Child and Family Services)*

The first combined (Foster Family Association with Application of Measures) children's party was held on November 29, 2003. Over 900 guests (600 children and 300 adults) attended. Judging by the smiles and joy expressed on the children's faces the event was a major success. The event went without a hitch due to the professionalism of the staff from Legends of the Forum, which was only surpassed by the most laudable commitment from the 90 Batshaw staff that volunteered...on a Saturday!

Many of us witnessed the true caring that our staff provides to their clients by seeing how many of them ran into their worker's arms. This event also provided an opportunity for siblings to see each other, for children to see their previous foster families and for some others to meet with children with whom they had previously been placed... it was a big 'family reunion'.

This event was made possible by donations from the community, partly sponsored by Legends of the Forum, by our Honorary President, Mr. Bob Benedetti, CFCF News, who provided us with the enthusiasm, encouragement and influence, which directly contributed to this great success, and most definitely by the high number of BYFC staff that volunteered.

The BYFC Holiday Committee will now pursue the second phase of their mandate, which is to collect over 800 gifts that will be provided to all the clients whose names were submitted for a gift by their respective workers. The holiday spirit has arrived at Batshaw and we wish everyone health and peace.

(Note from the Director: CONGRATULATIONS!!!)

## MDEC PROFESSIONAL DAY, A BIG SUCCESS!

*(Contributed by Karen Fox, Human Relations Agent, Professional Services Division)*

The Multidisciplinary Executive Council would like to thank everyone who participated in the Third Annual Professional Day 'Challenges and Changes in Practices - Strengthening Services for Children, Youth and Families', which took place on November 14, 2003. Over 150 people registered for the day and with the hard work, creativity and expertise of the workshop presenters - the day was a great success, providing staff with the opportunity to share their experiences and reflect upon their work with children, youth and families.

It's never too soon to think of next year's Professional Day... The MDEC would like to hear from any and all clinical staff who might be interested in giving suggestions for next year's day. Please contact your MDEC representative with your ideas. Thank you all for your participation !

## STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

The week of November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, was another week filled with small celebrations in each division as 20 staff reached 7 years, and 44 reached 15 years of service. These events were well attended by colleagues and managers, and at several we heard brief summaries of the interesting and sometimes surprising career roads followed by people. On the Thursday, we held the annual dinner for those staff who have reached 20 years and more of service. Once again, it was a very well attended and warm evening as longtime acquaintances chatted and showed their appreciation of their colleagues. A total of 59 people were recognized that evening.

**Did you know that?** 185 staff have 20 - 24 years of service, 107 have 25 - 29 years, 29 have 30-34 years, and one, Varenne Foster, has over 35 years!

## BUY A TREE AND HELP BATSHAW YOUTH

*(Contributed by Wayne Adams, Program Coordinator, Prévost campus, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)*

It is time for the annual harvest of Christmas trees from the tree plantation at Prévost campus. From early spring until the selling of the trees in December, the plantation provides valuable work and skill developing opportunities for a small number of youth. A great deal of labour goes into the process of growing and shaping high quality trees for market. The work intensifies in November as the trees are harvested and packaged for transport to Fairview where they are sold. This year we are hoping to harvest 1,750 trees.

At this point in time, about half of the trees have been cut and are ready for market. My congratulations to Eric Moran and the efforts of the youth (boys and girls) who are working very hard outdoors, braving the elements to get this work accomplished. If you are in the market for a tree this year, please consider a home-grown one from the Prévost plantation. They are available at the ERS stand, next to the gas station on the northeast corner of the Fairview Center parking lot.

## APROPOS GETS ITS FIRST LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*Dear Mr. Udy,*

*I was reading Apropos this morning and I wanted to let you know that it is because of "little old me" that Nick Argyropoulos now runs the cafeteria at 6 Weredale. For a few years I went to Nick's "Cafe Hot" on St. Catherine St., for his mom's delicious homemade muffins and great lunch menu. When Henri was looking for someone to take over the cafeteria I brought it up to Nick and set up the meeting, and the rest is history!*

*P.S.: I spoke to Nick not too long ago and he said it was the best choice he could have ever made.*

*Sincerely,*

*Toni Harper*

*Receptionist, Place Frontenac*

## FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING UPDATE

See the attached letter from Erin O'Brien and myself.

## FROM THE BOARD

At the November board meeting the members approved changes to Batshaw's contract with Baron de Hirsch, and policies concerning Client Assistance (Advocacy), Permanency Planning, Encadrement Intensif and Youth Protection placements in closed units.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing you all a happy holiday season, good health and contentment through 2004.

## THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

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|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>December</b>                 | <b>ERS Tree Sale at Fairview Center</b><br>For more info contact ERS @ 731-3419)                   |
| <b>December 13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Staff Holiday Party</b>   |
| <b>December 21<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>Staff Children's Party at Prévost</b><br>For more info contact:<br>Sam Barile at 932-7722, #277 |