



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

BATSHAW LAUNCHES PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (PEP)

(Contributed by Tony Maciocia, Program Coordinator in the Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

We are pleased to announce the launching of a Pre-Employment Program (PEP), which has been set up in partnership with Les Ateliers du Centre jeunesse de Montréal, Carrefour des jeunes du Sud-Ouest and Batshaw. Funds have been provided by the Centre Local d'Emploi (CLE) du Sud-Ouest.

This is a 12-week full-time program (approx. 32 hrs/wk) designed to offer pre-employment training to youth (16+) who have quit school and who are deemed not ready to enter and sustain themselves in the regular job market. Program content centers around workshop-style contract work, supplemented by some classes on employment skills. Youth are paid an hourly rate.

Youth who complete the PEP program can then move on to stage placements with employers in the community.

This general program will accept any Batshaw youth who meets the criteria, space permitting. The working language of this program is French, but some English interventions do occur.

A second part of the PEP is available for unilingual English youth who have some connection to the Southwest area of the city. The content of this program includes French classes on site.

All referrals and inquiries about the PEP go through Alan Cobb at Support Link. Phil Henry is the Program Manager who is also available to anyone seeking more information about the program.

Contact: Alan Cobb – 932-7161 ext. 417
Phil Henry – 932-7161 ext. 314

FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION CLOTHING ROOM REOPENS

The FFA clothing room, housed in our office on Tupper Street, reopened for business on May 18th. Thanks to work by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, a system has been set up to have donated clothing cleaned before it enters the building, ensuring the well-being of all who come into contact with the clothing. The clothing room responds to clothing needs of foster families. For more information, call Marie-Pierre Ulysse: 989-1885, local 268.

TOBIN HOUSE CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERS

(Contributed by Darlene Job, Child Care Worker, Tobin House group home, Division of Child and Family Services)

Tobin House kids and staff hosted their 4th annual volunteer appreciation party on April 29th. With a very active volunteer crew, the kids at Tobin House showed their appreciation once again with a great show, individual speeches, flowers and certificates for all their dedicated volunteers. Great food, great company made for yet another successful party! We are looking forward to another year with our amazing volunteers. Thanks to all who attended and all who helped make it happen.

FROM THE BOARD

At its meeting on March 15th, the board coopted a new member, Stephanie Margolese, to replace a member who had

resigned. Dr. Margolese is a practicing psychologist at the Jewish General Hospital who has specialized in the significance of attachment for children.

At the meeting of May 10th the board approved the creation of an Assistant Executive Director position. This is a conversion of the previous Advisor to the Executive Director position. The posting is up and I hope to propose a nomination to the board at its meeting on June 14th. This position will enable us to maintain our relationships with various partners, and add to our capacity to give senior management attention to efforts that improve our programs.

THE ANNUAL 6 WEREDALE STAFF BBQ IS APPROACHING!

(Contributed by Kim Kurtz, Volunteer Services)

For the fourth consecutive year this popular event will take place at noon on June 10th. The principal objective is to raise money to supplement the Child and Family Services Camp Office budget. This is the fund that enables youth who are living in the community and in foster care to have a summer camp experience. The Camp Office sends children to over 100 different camps every summer. Come for lunch, experience the wonders of men cooking (the St. James group home BBQ crew), hear music provided by Mix 96, buy tickets, bring us your Canadian Tire money, win prizes, and best of all help children go to camp. If you would like to help out in some way, or if you cannot attend and would like to support this worthy cause, contact Kim Kurtz at 932-7161, #340.

7TH ANNUAL POW-WOW AT PRÉVOST

(From a press release from the Kahnawake community)

On June 12, 2004, from noon to 4 p.m., The People of Kahnawake and Batshaw Youth and Family Centres present a "6 Nations" Pow-wow and celebration "Honouring our Youths".

Located at Prévost Campus, this colourful feast of rhythms, dance and culture promises to be bigger and better than previous years, and those were spectacular successes. In the event of rain, the celebration will move under the roof of the outdoor arena.

Admission is free to all and there is plenty of free parking. Native crafts will be on site for both display and sale. There will also be a Tiny Tots exhibition Lacrosse game.

Bring the family for a unique experience, to the only Pow-wow in the Laurentians.

For more information please contact (450)224-8234 or (514) 932-7722 and ask for: Merv, ext. 0, Dave, ext. 232 or Andy, ext. 269.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 10th: 4th Annual Staff BBQ
6 Weredale Park, 12-1:30 p.m. (For info: Kim Kurtz, 932-7161, local 340)
- June 12th: Pow-wow at Prévost Campus
(For info: Dave Brown, 450-224-8234)
- June 16th: Batshaw Foundation Annual General Meeting (For info: Ghislaine Corbeil, 989-1885, local 201)
- June 17th: Batshaw Board meeting (For info: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, local 202)