



# Appropos

## Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

### **BATSHAW FOSTER FAMILY HONOURED**

*(Contributed by Marion Leroux & Garnett Forbes, Foster Care Services, Division of Child and Family Services)*

Every year, the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) seeks nominations for the outstanding foster family of the year. This year, the award goes to one of Batshaw's foster families, Mrs. Amal Nafie and Mr. Ibrahim Abdelatiff. They are a valuable resource in working with Muslim families in Montreal.

In the Abdelatiff family, there always seems to be an available pair of arms to hold a distressed child while someone else comforts another. This caring includes unconditional acceptance of and respect for the children's families, as the mother and dad have served as mentors, teachers and role models for the parents of children in their care.

They have also been instrumental in helping children return home successfully, managing the expectations and demands of Batshaw with dignity. Their contributions to the child welfare team are relevant and highly respected; they always appear ready to extend themselves in a crisis situation or to make the necessary accommodations to keep siblings together.

A religious family, they have been able to adapt their lifestyle to accommodate the needs of children from other cultural backgrounds and have been extremely helpful in efforts to recruit foster families from the Muslim community.

The Abdelatiff family love and respect children, they believe in family and are generous with their time, energy and affection.

Mr. Peter Dudding, Executive Director of the CWLC, will present the family their award on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner.

### **GOLF SUCCESS**

*(Contributed by Leo Ferguson, Program Manager, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)*

On Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Batshaw's annual golf tournament was held at Bonniebrook Golf Club. The weather co-operated and a good time was had by all. With over 115 participants, the tournament continues to grow in popularity. This year we were able to obtain some awesome raffle prizes making the raffle ticket attractive. Through the hard work of our volunteers, we were able to raise \$1575. All the proceeds have been given to the general camp fund and the Ways and Means Client Committees at Prevost and Dorval.

This year a new trophy was added for the best score with handicap. The winners were: Wayne Wallingford, Marc Hébert, Don Wallingford and Gérald Tremblay.

The women's trophy for best score went to: Laurie Meyers, Lori Barnes, Jennifer Duyer-Odell and Jill Boyd.

The men's trophy for best score once again went to: Nick Par(é), Alan Macfarlane, Fred Spencer and James Alexander. Congratulations to all the winners.

This event is not possible without the support of our many generous corporate sponsors. Please support them whenever possible.

Many thanks to everyone who helped out to make this year's tournament a huge success. Next year's tournament will be held in mid-September.

### **ANOTHER CAMP SEASON IS OVER**

*(Contributed by Darlene Job, Child Care Worker, Tobin House, Division of Child and Family Services, and operator of the Batshaw Camp Service during the summer)*

Every one is back at work, school buses are once again on the roads, and the leaves will start turning colors before we know it. I would like to take this time to thank every one for another busy and productive summer camp season.

The Batshaw Camp Service used over 140 camps this summer in and around Montreal, the Eastern Townships, the Laurentians, Ontario and the United States.

The total number of children sent to camp this summer was over 600 funded by the Batshaw Camp budget (of \$179,853, plus \$2,700 contributed by parents), and over 100 more children helped out by Generations Foundation. Please continue to support Generations Foundation as they always support our clients and families.

I would like to thank all Batshaw staff members for filling out all the forms even though you have enough paper work already!

Thanks again for supporting the BBQ in June; we had a great day for it!!

The Camp Service is working on a few changes for next year such as:

- Applications and camping booklet being available on line again.
- We are continuing to look for a sleeping bag supplier.
- An increase in our subsidy amount given to the camps.
- I'm always trying to make the paper work easier!
- More camps collecting the parental contribution money themselves.
- Processing application only with the parental contribution attached.

So, to wrap up, the camping services will go into hibernation, soon to resurface in March of next year. I will return to Tobin House full time on September 20<sup>th</sup>. You can always reach me by email, of course.

Have a safe, warm and productive winter, and take care.

### **STAFF BBQ**

On Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the annual Batshaw staff family BBQ was held at Camp Weredale on the shore of Lac L'Achigan. The weather was ideal. About 40 Batshaw staff, their family members and friends gathered for a BBQ and an afternoon of relaxing, walk, kayaking, and for the adventurous, tubing behind the powerboat. Camp Director Keith Ross and his wife Lori Dziewirz were our hosts as we lazed away the afternoon. Thanks to them and their staff for their hospitality and another opportunity to experience the beauty of the Laurentians.

### **THE BATSHAW CALENDAR**

October 4<sup>th</sup>: Board meeting and Annual Public Information Meeting (for information: Thérèse Gauthier: 989-1885, local 202)

October 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: Foster family week

October 19<sup>th</sup>: Foster Family Appreciation Dinner (for information on both: Leigh Johnston, 932-7161, local 391)

October 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: Staff recognition week

October 28<sup>th</sup>: Staff recognition dinner

(For information on both: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, local 202)