



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

FOSTER FAMILY RECOGNITION DINNER

On Tuesday, October 19th, the annual Foster Family Recognition Dinner was held at the Atwater Club. Over 100 foster parents were in attendance at a splendid dinner made possible through the generosity of the Atwater Club. The staff of the Foster Care program, under the leadership of coordinator, Leigh Johnston, acted as waiters for the evening, underlining the tradition that lies behind the event, which is to give back to foster parents. Those foster parents who have given more than 20 years of service to children and the agency were recognized and received certificates to underline their achievements. A highlight of the evening was the official presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Ibrahim Abdelatiff of the Child Welfare League of Canada Outstanding Achievement Award for Foster Parents for 2003. Peter Dudding, Executive Director of the League (of which Batshaw is a member) traveled from Ottawa to make the presentation. It capped a very relaxing evening on which we paused to appreciate the many foster parents (over 300) who give generously of their time, their affection and of their family life to the many children (over 600) who cannot stay with their biological family, whether temporarily or for a long time.

VISIT FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

On September 27th, Batshaw received a visit from member of the National Assembly, Pierre Marsan, and *attaché politique* to Minister Philippe Couillard, Harold Fortin. Mr. Marsan is the parliamentary secretary for youth issues to Minister Couillard, and Mr. Fortin has similar responsibilities on the political staff team in Mr. Couillard's office. The visit began with a lunch attended by members of the Batshaw Management Committee and members of the Multidisciplinary Council Executive Committee. This relaxed forum gave an opportunity, particularly to members of the MDEC, to talk about issues they encounter in giving services to children, youth and families. In the afternoon senior managers and I had the opportunity to inform Messrs Marsan and Fortin of the prevention work done by our *Vérification sur terrain* and Family Preservation programs. We went on to explain our Permanency Planning approach. Finally, we talked about our Intermittent Custody and Intensive Probation programs, and the extensive use made in the entire agency of Aggression Replacement Therapy. We also had the opportunity to explain how the unavailability in English of certain tools and guidelines produced in the Ministry is an obstacle for some of our staff that causes extra investment on our part and which deprives some staff of the benefits. We found we had a very attentive audience, impressed with what we have accomplished to date, and were invited to submit a request for an evaluation budget for the Family Preservation programs.

AM COMEDY FUNDRAISER COMING UP

(Contributed by Cynthia Svoronos of the Application of Measures service in the Division of Child and Family Services)

Ernie Butler's Comedy Nest, 2313 St. Catherine St. West, (932-6378), presents THE ALL STARS OF MONTREAL, a celebration of their 25th anniversary on November 11th, at 8:30 p.m. The proceeds are being donated to the Application of Measures Alternative Funds. Tickets are \$12. For more information, contact Cynthia Svoronos at 695-5251, local 119.

SOFTBALL

Back in August, two hardy Batshaw softball teams made the trek to the Annual Youth Centres Softball Tournament held this year in Val d'Or. We found the town of Val d'Or and the staff of Centre jeunesse Abitibi-Témiscamingue very hospitable. Those of you who follow closely my annual report on the fortunes of these two teams know that the results are uncannily predictable. The women's team does well, and the mixed team doesn't. This year the women's team went all the way to the finals and lost a heartbreaker. The mixed team encountered every conceivable obstacle including umpires who didn't know the rules, an impressive display of flyswatting by Lavine McIntyre, and a lack of female players so severe that at one point we had to borrow two from Centre jeunesse de l'Outaouais, who became honorary Anglophones, and to whom we are grateful. In short, "we was robbed", and we'll be back next year!

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At the meeting held October 4th, the board approved the first collaboration protocol between the Police Service of Montréal and Batshaw. It covers how interviews of young people on Batshaw sites will be conducted. Police Director Michel Sarrazin and I signed the protocol at a ceremony on Friday, October 8th. Other subjects will be covered by other protocols to be written over the next two years. Congratulations to Sarah Canta and Ed Potter-Mäl, respectively lawyer in Batshaw Legal Services and Coordinator in the Division of Professional Services, for their work in bringing the first protocol to a conclusion.

HOLIDAY PARTY NEWS

The BYFC Annual Holiday Party will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel on Saturday, December 18th, starting at 6:30 p.m. If you were there last year and enjoyed the Italian chef and dance instructor, the espionage of the computer guys, the ruthless humor of Ted Larivière, or the amazing Batshaw salsa ensemble, then tell your colleagues to buy their tickets early. Registration and other details are coming soon.

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

Batshaw Foundation Fundraising campaign starts. (more information in November)

November 11th: AM Fundraiser at the Comedy Nest (see details above)

November 19th: 4th Annual MDC Professional Day (more information: Joanne Marcotte, 932-7161, local 335)

World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse (see websites www.woman.ch or www.crin.org)

November 20th: Children's Rights Day (see website www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)

November 21st-27th: Confidentiality Awareness Week (for information: Maryse Tomaras, 932-7161, local 328)

November 29th: Board meeting (for information: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, local 202)