



# Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

## HALLOWEEN FUN

*(Contributed by Cathy Millar, child care worker, Crossroads, Division of Child and Family Services)*

On Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, Tobin House invited all Batshaw pre-adolescent units to a Halloween party. We all had a wonderful time. The staff at Tobin House should be commended for creating a spectacular Halloween atmosphere, especially the HAUNTED HOUSE. The children were delighted by the variety of traditional Halloween games that allowed the participants to amass a wealth of candy. Many tasty treats were prepared and handed out prior to the "Grand Finale": a fabulous show put on by a magician who enthralled his audience with dazzling sleight of hand. Special thanks go out to Adrian Bercovici from Generations Foundation who made possible the entertainment, as well as to Darlene, Pina and Rick for hosting such a successful evening.

*Editor's note:* Halloween was also celebrated at Prévost campus. Every unit created a scary tableau. Youth wore convincing and gory costume and makeup. Congratulations to Rachel Soussan and her goblins for creating a very haunted house and to Karen Goodhand for the most terrifying cackle.

## STAFF RECOGNITION WEEK AND EVENING

The tradition of taking time out all over Batshaw to let our colleagues have a little limelight and show our appreciation now seems firmly anchored in the Batshaw social calendar. This year there were sixteen such events, culminated by the Thursday evening dinner for those with 20 years and more service.

First, here's a snapshot of the years of commitment of Batshaw staff:

1-6 years:	357
7-14 years:	222
15-19 years:	175
20-24 years:	141
25-29 years:	118
30-34 years:	42
35+ years:	1

Fully 29% of our staff have over 20 years of service with Batshaw!

Over the course of sixteen events, I go through a variety of experiences. Here are a few highlights. The first is "cake" and lots of it! Every single event includes cake, and by the end of the week I had gained four pounds. At least this year I wasn't the victim of cake-fraud. My favorite events are the very small ones where only one or two people receive a certificate with a few colleagues present. These occasions allow for a discussion about how the person started and what they've done that is quite special. Then there's Bourbonnière which always involves a cast of thousands: staff, students, teachers, clients, parents, parents of ex-clients, even a psychiatrist. And the food is great. Murphy's Law says: "If anything can go wrong, it will." I arrived at Rudel to present one certificate and of course there was a cake. On the cake were sparklers. Once lit, they set off the smoke alarm, which is connected to the fire department. In such situations there is a number to call, within a very short delay, to report a false alarm. Someone ran upstairs to the staff office where the number is on the wall. The staff office was being painted so everything had been removed from the wall. By the time the number was located, it was too late. On the sidewalk we

formed a welcoming committee. Those present will know what I mean when I say that the firemen were given a warm welcome. Interim manager Joanne Kralka was melting into the sidewalk wondering where did she go wrong in life that this has to happen on the only day of the year that the Executive Director comes to visit. Finally she asks the crucial question to the Captain: Will we have to pay? Fortunately there'll be no bill, so we all went back to eating cake. Finally, Thursday evening arrives. One hundred and eighty-five people gather at the Centre Mont Royal, a new site for this event. Thérèse and I are nervous. What if nobody likes it? Quickly the ambience that is so special about these evenings settles over us, and the evening was a great success, helped by the eight board members who came out to show their recognition of our dedicated staff. I'll end by admitting that I called Anne Quesnel a "cutie-pie" in public, and gave her a big hug when she came for her certificate. Someone was overheard at a table saying, "What if his wife finds out?" Fortunately for me, she is my wife.

## DID YOU KNOW?

*(Submitted by the Verdun Application of Measures Team, Division of Child and Family Services)*

On the heels of celebrating Staff Recognition Week, we wanted to bring to your attention one member of our team who has been working for Batshaw for close to fifty years (in two careers separated by a retirement). Her name is **Elsie Shriar**. HATS OFF TO YOU, ELSIE!!! Your energy is abounding and amazing. Your commitment to the protection and well-being of children is most commendable and greatly appreciated. You are a valued member of the Verdun Team and of Batshaw.

## FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING

The annual fundraising campaign for the Batshaw Foundation has started. You will hear radio spots over the next several week, courtesy of Standard Broadcasting who have donated public announcement time on CJAD, CHOM and Mix 96. Attached to this edition is a message from Foundation President, Erin O'Brien, and myself. I urge you to read it, and to consider giving to benefit our clients.

## CARIBBEAN RELIEF FUNDS

To help Haiti and Grenada recover from hurricane damage:

- o **Haiti:** Send donations to Oxfam Québec  
2330 Notre-Dame St. West, Suite 200  
Montréal, Qc, H3J 2Y2
- o **Grenada:** Call Mrs. Bonaparte of the Grenada Hurricane Survivor Relief Committee at 352-8775

## THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

November: Batshaw Foundation fundraising drive starts  
(more information: Ghislaine Corbeil, 989-1885, loc. 201)

December 1<sup>st</sup>: World Aids Day  
(more information: Lynn Dion, 636-0910, loc. 142)

December 18<sup>th</sup>: Staff Holiday Party  
(more information: Ola Dupelycz 932-7161, loc. 453, or France Lespérance, 989-1885, loc. 204)