



Apropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

BLACK HISTORY MONTH, continued...

Celebration of Black History month continued throughout February with:

- A luncheon and film at Prévost campus,
- A supper at Couvrette group home featuring West Indian food prepared by the staff, plus films on black history,
- A luncheon and guest speaker at Dorval,
- Educational and social events at Mountainview School, including guest speakers, song and dance and food from West Indian and African countries,
- A full day at Bourbonnière group home, including presentations on events and people who have shaped the lives and history of Black people and a West Indian feast prepared by the legendary Winsome Arthurs,
- Several lunches based on different cuisines, and a viewing of the film *Hotel Rwanda* at Young Offenders Services and Legal Services,
- The Black History Month luncheon - There is a long history behind this event. In 1992 Florence Clark and Garnett Forbes had the inspiration, and it has now become the crowning event that wraps up Black History month. This year over a hundred guests were treated to an exotic, succulent meal which brought culture and tradition to the table. Annie Alexander sewed the tablecloths into the wee hours of the night, many foster parents and staff cooked up a storm, and many other volunteers followed the instructions of Nick Argyropoulos, his mother, and Denise Bertrand to make possible a most satisfying conclusion to a busy and informative month.

NEWS FROM THE BATSHAW FOUNDATION

On Tuesday, April 19th, at 7 p.m., the Foundation is hosting a Fashion Show at Ogilvy. Thanks to the support of Ogilvy, Via Rail, Bavaria Brewery, Domaine Pinnacle, the Atwater Club and hours of work from the organizing committee, led by board member Kim Drummond, 350 tickets are being sold at \$75, the proceeds of which will go to the tutoring program supported by the foundation. If you like fashion or want to support children who need tutoring by buying a ticket or by selling tickets to your acquaintances, call Ghislaine Corbeil at the Foundation Office at 5 Weredale: 989-1885, local 201.

NEW CAMPUS PROGRESS

I am pleased to announce that Batshaw has reached an agreement with the Douglas Hospital on the location and size of the land to be used for construction of the new campus for residential services. The site chosen is in the northeast corner of the Hospital property facing Champlain Boulevard. The boards of both institutions have adopted resolutions accepting in principle this plan. We appreciate the cooperation of our colleagues at the Douglas Hospital which has permitted us to reach this point, and look forward to moving on with the project.

UDY FOR PRESIDENT!

Now that I have your attention, I realize it's not modest to write about myself in Apropos, but... Batshaw has been a member of the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) since 1992. The CWLC has over 100 members in all 13 provinces and territories. Many are service-providing agencies like Batshaw. Others are provincial government departments responsible for child welfare, university faculties and provincial child advocates. Other members from Québec are Le Centre jeunesse de Montréal, l'Association des centres jeunesse du Québec, and La Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

The League has promoted many well-attended conferences across Canada such as *Protecting children, helping adults: Bringing two worlds closer together*, to be held in Montréal, May 26-27. It is also a partner in the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare (CECW). The CECW is a major platform for conducting and disseminating important research in child welfare, holding seminars such as *Outcomes in Child Welfare* in 2003, and housing valuable research and reference materials on major issues in child welfare, such as the *Canadian Incidence Study of Abuse and Neglect*. The CWLC has also received many grants to conduct projects that have added tools and knowledge to the child welfare scene. Examples are: the pamphlet "Discipline without hurting" which we have used in Batshaw, and to which our own Foundation contributed funds, and more recently the Canadian demonstration project of the approach to children in foster care known as "Looking After Children" in which Batshaw's Division of Child and Family Services participates. The League has an Outstanding Achievement program which annually recognizes Canadians who have made outstanding contributions in child welfare as volunteers, workers in children's services, foster parents, youth leaders, advocates, and in research and evaluation. Batshaw foster parents Vonnie Ruggles and Mr. and Mrs. Ibrahim Abdelatiff received Outstanding Achievement Awards in 2001 and 2003 respectively, bringing honor and recognition to their fine work, making all of us proud to be associated with them.

I have been a board member of the league since 1996. At the last board meeting in February, I was elected President of the board for the next two years. I am honored and pleased to participate in the leadership of a growing and important organization in our field. Membership on the CWLC board is a volunteer activity and will not take me away from Batshaw any more than it has up to this point. I am very proud of the contribution Batshaw has made to the CWLC over the years. We are a well-known and well-respected participant in the Canadian child welfare community. I am equally proud of the growing contribution the CWLC has been able to make to support the thousands of line workers, managers and researchers across Canada who work every day at improving life for Canadian children at risk and their parents.

You can see more about the League at www.cwlc.ca and about the Centre of Excellence at www.cecw-cepb.ca.

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

April 17th-23rd Volunteer week.

For information: Kim Kurtz, 932-7161,
local 340