

Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

BATSHAW ARTISTS ON THE GO!

A quilt created by six young women of the Ste-Rose Program at Prévost, has recently been displayed in Batshaw. The theme is about emotions experienced in relationships. One of the young women, along with child care workers Barbara Duval and Lisa Agombar and program manager Fred Anderson, presented the quilt at the board meeting on March 21st. Board members were impressed and appreciative of the effort and feeling conveyed by the quilt. Now the quilt will be part of a display of creations by young women at the Learning Club and Fine Art Gallery in Mississauga, and on-line at www.gallerystreetsville.ca. You can see it on the web site, May 13th to May 20th. Congratulations to the young women at Ste-Rose, and to the staff for their support.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MANNY!

On April 17th, Manny Batshaw celebrated his 90th birthday. He was inundated with greetings and congratulations. Most people receive gifts on their birthday. Manny gives them! He has presented a donation of \$10,000 to the Batshaw Foundation to fund an annual *Ruth and Manny Batshaw Award of Excellence*. The criteria and timing for the award will be announced in a few weeks. The annual award will be accompanied by a gift of \$1,000. He further announced another \$10,000 in his will to assure continuity for the award. I am sure you will join me in birthday wishes and expressions of gratitude and appreciation for Ruth's and Manny's generosity.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY COUNCIL AGM

The MDC will hold its Annual General Assembly on **May 20th**, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., featuring two guest speakers who are among Canada's experts on the subject of 'neglect':

Carl Lacharité, researcher and clinical psychologist, has been involved extensively with research in child neglect and social responses to it. He is one of the principal developers of the *Programme d'aide personnelle, familiale et communautaire* intervention model for families in situations of neglect or at risk of neglecting. Used widely throughout Quebec and retained by the Center for Excellence for Child Welfare (CECW), it is a model of social action that requires institutions and community organizations to work in partnership in order to coordinate improvements for vulnerable families.

Nico Trocmé is a Professor and Philip Fisher Chair in Social Work at McGill University, and Director of the CECW, which supports child welfare research and evidence-based policy and practice. Dr. Trocmé is principal investigator for the Canadian Incidence Study of Abuse and Neglect. This summer he will also assume the role of Senior Advisor on Research Integration at Batshaw.

All clinical staff are invited to attend by registering with Joanne Marcotte (email or phone; 932-7161 #335) by May 6th.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

(Contributed by Carol-Ann Milch and Danny Hoelscher, child care workers, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

EQUIP (Ensuring Qualifications and Independence Program) announces the first **Community Resources Matinée**, planned with the help of Support Link workers Alan Cobb and Monique Laverdure. Twenty community organizations will

display their services in kiosk form under themes of health, employment, housing, education, etc. It will showcase services available in the community to help prepare youth for when they leave care. It is also very helpful for professionals who work with youth so they can better direct them. The *matinée* will be held **May 24th**, at 6 Weredale Park in the auditorium, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the format being a "drop in and visit". All of Batshaw is invited to attend.

INTERPRETERS APPRECIATED

(Contributed by Kathy Faludi, Human Relations Agent, Division of Professional Services)

Most of BYFC staff have some experience with the Cultural Consultants and Linguistic Interpreters Service. It provides language interpretation services and/or the services of a cultural consultant. The consultant's role is to give meaning to a particular group's cultural norms, practices and beliefs in such a way that it enhances Batshaw's ability to provide culturally appropriate services. Coordinated by DPS, it would not be possible without the voluntary participation of approximately 90 BYFC staff who give their time.

A long overdue vote of thanks was needed and a reception was held on March 7th. Attended by over 40 people, several of the staff spoke about the positive contribution their role as consultant makes to client service. Michael Udy and Margaret Douek personally thanked those in attendance and certificates of recognition were handed out.

For information about the service, please call or email Kathy Faludi, at 932-7161, local 345.

CCC/QAE CONFERENCE

(Contributed by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, liaison to the CCC and FFA, Executive Director's office)

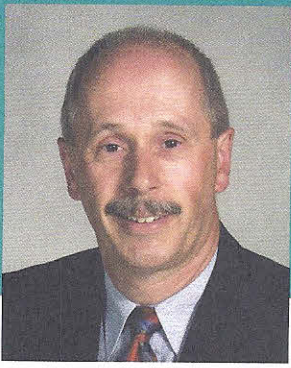
The Council for Clients and Community and the Quebec Association of Educators will once again host a joint Conference, "**Empowerment for Protection**", on **May 12th**, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will address some of the dangers that our youth and our protection system might be exposed to.

Workshops are aimed at youth, parents, foster parents, community organizations, educators, social workers, and any other professional working with youth. In the afternoon, a recently produced and excellent documentary on the challenges faced by young people leaving care will be screened with the filmmaker Andrée Cazabon and one of the young subjects of the film present.

The Conference is free and includes a free Bar-B-Q lunch. The success of the day depends on your participation. We hope to see you there.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 6th: MDC General Meeting (for info. Joanne Marcotte, 932-7161, #335)
- 9th: Board meeting (for info. Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, #202)
- 9th-15th: National Nurses' Week, (for info. Lynh Suong Pham, 937-9581, #104)
- 12th: CCC Conference, (for info. Marie-Pierre Ulysse, 989-1885, #268)



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PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EXPLOITATION

(Contributed by Nick Paré, Director of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

On March 21, 2005, the BYFC policy and procedure on « Sexual Exploitation of Youth : Prevention and Intervention » was adopted by the Batshaw Board.

The policy names one central staff person to whom all situations of "sexual exploitation" relating to Batshaw youth clients must be reported, no matter in what service of Batshaw they occur or are detected. This central person is the BYFC Resource Person on HIV/STI and Youth Sexuality, Lynn Dion. She has the responsibility to track information and trends, and a relationship with the Police Service of Montréal that permits close collaboration.

If you know of a young Batshaw client being sexually exploited, and/or if you know of individuals who exploit them, in addition to signaling the matter, inform your manager of the situation who will inform Lynn at 636-0910, extension 142.

This procedure does not replace the responsibility of every citizen, under the law, to signal to the Director of Youth Protection any situation where it is believed that the security and/or development of a child is compromised.

CCC/QAE CONFERENCE: STANDING ROOM ONLY

The 10th annual conference held by Batshaw's users' committee, the Council for Clients and Community (CCC), held Thursday, May 12th, was a big success. Held in collaboration with the Québec Association of Educators (QAE), the day's activities attracted 240 attendees from among clients, staff and community members. Some 80 youth were in attendance, the largest youth turnout ever. Among the day's events were a thought-provoking play presented by the Parminou theatre group, and an autobiographical documentary presented by film maker Andrée Cazabon, herself a youth client of the Ottawa Children's Aid Society in her teens. Congratulations to Ruth and Leon Essing and their hardworking organizing committee.

BATSHAW STAFF HONOURED

As mentioned, the CCC conference was held in collaboration with the QAE. During the opening ceremonies, the QAE announced its annual recognition awards. Two Batshaw staff were honoured: Kees Maas, Psychologist, Professional Services Division, who received the Field Award for someone whose career has shown a commitment to supporting child care workers; and Sue Silva, Child Care Worker in the Resources Department, Division of Child and Family Services. Sue's award was for excellence in practice. That same day, Sue was informed that she has been awarded the 2004 Child Welfare of Canada Achievement Award in the category of Children's Services, which recognizes exceptional commitment, creativity and dedication in the recipient's direct work with children, youth and families.

We congratulate both Kees and Sue for their outstanding qualities which have merited them this recognition. We are proud to be associated with them, and applaud the example of caring and excellence they give to those around them, clients and staff alike.

FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING UPDATE

On April 19th, the first Batshaw Foundation fundraising Fashion Show was held at Ogilvy's. Over 400 tickets were sold, and over 350 attended the event in the Tudor room. The atmosphere was upbeat and support for what Batshaw does was evident. All funds raised go towards tutoring for Batshaw clients from any service. Young people from the Crossroads program at Dorval, supported by Child Care Worker Anna Maria Ferro, prepared four beautiful posters to express the value they see in learning and their appreciation of community support.

AM KID'S ART CONTEST A HIT

(Contributed by Susan Pinsky, Supervisor, Permanency Planning Team, Division of Child and Family Services)

Once again, this year's art contest was a success. The clients of the Tupper and Frontenac offices submitted their works of art at a *vernissage* held at the 6 Weredale Park auditorium on March 24th. The contest was organized by the students of both Tupper and Frontenac offices. Thanks go to Pamela Weightman, Deborah Driver, Zara Canteenwalla, Rose Ze-Meka, Amelie Waddell, Patricia McLean, Sarah Gemayel, and Meghan Hayden. Eighty pieces of art were received and nine prizes were awarded. There were three age categories, each receiving a first, second and third prize.

The *vernissage* was a blast as approximately 25 children, parents and foster parents attended. There was a fabulous array of foods prepared by Deborah's mother and entertainment by Ross Paperman. Each child in attendance received a door prize.

The art has been framed and will be displayed in the next few weeks at Tupper so that everyone can enjoy the tremendous talent of our children.

POETRY

Recently a young person living in a Batshaw foster home participated in a poetry writing contest held by the Poetry Institute of Canada. Her poem was selected from among submissions from all across Canada to be included in a book of young people's poems to be published in May. All of us in Batshaw congratulate her for this achievement. Let's hope she will pursue her artistic talents as far as they can go.

CANADIAN IDOL

Equally impressive is the news that a young person living in a Batshaw group home made it through the Montréal cut for Canadian Idol, and was selected to travel to Toronto this month for further auditions for Canadian Idol's final 32 participants!!

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

- June 9th: Annual staff BBQ and fundraiser for the Batshaw Camp desk, 12 (noon), (For info: Kim Kurtz, 932-7161, loc 340)
- 13th: Batshaw Board meeting, 6 p.m. (For info: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, loc 202)
- 15th: Batshaw Foundation Annual General Meeting, 12:15 p.m. (For info: Ghislaine Corbeil, 989-1885, loc 201)
- 17th: Annual Pow Wow at Prévost Campus, 12 (noon) to 4 p.m. (For info: Dave Brown, 932-7722, loc 291)