



# Apropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

## **BBO COOKS UP A STORM FOR KIDS**

*(Contributed by Kim Kurtz, Volunteer Services, and Darlene Job, Camping Services)*

Wow, hundreds of burgers and hot dogs consumed thousands of dollars raised and good vibrations all around. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 6 Weredale Park Staff BBQ to kick off summer and support sending kids to camp just keeps getting bigger and better. Over 300 people enjoyed the food, music and live entertainment in front of 6 Weredale Park. All proceeds from the event go to the Batshaw Foundation Camp for Kids Fund.

Once again, the St. James, Intensive Probation and Transition Diversion crew masterfully manned the grills and food tables. Mix 96 provided the music, Clement Walker had everyone thinking summer with his hot vocals and Gina Carvalho had everyone reaching for their raffle ticket numbers as she emceed the event. The raffle and kind donations from staff and services raised over \$3000.

Many staff baked goodies for the dessert table (scooped up quickly by appreciative dessert seekers). The transport team also contributed to the cause by organizing a "parking the van competition". Never have so many hit the curb, in so little time, with so many excuses.

To all who gave so generously, we thank you.

## **FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation ended its financial year having raised over \$200,000 in direct donations! The next edition of Apropos will report on how this money helped clients during the year.

## **UNE BELLE MATINÉE!**

*(Submitted by Danny Hoelscher and Carol-Ann Milch, Child Care Workers, EQUIP program, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)*

In January 2002, the pilot project *Qualification des jeunes* was launched under the tutelage of the *Association des centres jeunesse du Québec*. Four regions were selected, including Montreal (Batshaw called its project EQUIP; an acronym for Ensuring Qualifications and Independence Program). Each location hired two educators who selected ten youth between the ages of fifteen and sixteen. Those selected were teenagers who could most benefit from an intensive, long-term (three-year) program aimed at helping them better prepare for the rigors of life after attaining the age of majority.

*Below is a report on a special event held recently by EQUIP.*

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, EQUIP, with the collaboration of Support Link, presented the Community Resources Matinée at the 6 Weredale Park auditorium. Community organizations formed nineteen kiosks to present the services they offer our youth. The booths represented four different themes—health, education, housing and employment. Five organizations that did not fit any of the themes were also in attendance. There was an abundance of information available to visitors that included social workers, educators, managers, foster parents and most importantly, our youth. Visitors walked out of the auditorium with bags provided by the representative from *Emploi Québec* filled with pamphlets and email addresses from all the organizations. It was an opportunity for networking that many took advantage of. Feedback obtained from visitors on the evaluation forms was overwhelmingly

positive. What seemed most appreciated was the myriad of information available all in one place. The participating community organizations also had many positive things to say about our matinée. They were expecting more clients to visit their kiosks and appreciated seeing the ones who were able to attend. The event even ended up on the six o'clock CFCFV news! Hopefully, Batshaw's Community Resources Matinée will become an annual event.

## **NO REST FOR RELAX-ACTION**

*(Submitted by Phillip Burns, Program Manager, Evaluation/Orientation department Division of Youth Protection)*

*Last November the board approved a renovation project at Dorval campus to upgrade the gymnasium and expand the area covered by air conditioning. Added to the project, and financed by monies from parking, the 6 Weredale cafeteria and the existing fitness centre at 6 Weredale, was a second fitness centre for staff. Here is a report on the growth of Relax-Action, in which 199 (20%) of Batshaw's staff are now members.*

Relax-Action Centre has expanded westward with the opening of our new fitness facility at the Dorval campus. Equipped with the same top quality exercise machines and weights, a newly refurbished gym, and modernized locker and shower areas, Relax-Action West is already in full swing. An added bonus is that unlike 6 Weredale, the Dorval centre is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The investment of significant sums of money from secondary sources (i.e. nothing is taken from funds meant for clients) represents a continued commitment on the part of the agency to employee wellness. We encourage all staff who would like their health to benefit from our facilities to join Relax-Action Centre. The low cost membership fee (\$10 per month payroll deduction for an annual membership; \$75 for six months) gives you access to both sites as well as participation in subsidized classes and activities. For more information about the Dorval facility, contact the local operating committee composed of Veronique Sosa, Shelley Arya and Sandy Parks.

For information about Relax-Action, go to the Batshaw Intranet site. On the left click on "More..." Select Relax-Action from the list. Anyone with ideas for other activities to promote wellness can contact Yves Provençal, 989-1885, local 222, or via Lotus Notes.

## **NEWS FROM THE BOARD**

At its last meeting in May the Batshaw board received a visit and presentation from Michel Fontaine, Executive Director, and Madeleine Rivard-Leduc, board member, of the *Conseil québécois d'agrément*. The board also adopted the 2005-2006 budget. More about this budget will appear in the July/August edition of Apropos. The board also renewed my contract with Batshaw for the period December 2004 to December 2008.

## **THE BATSHAW CALENDAR**

- Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> (Sunday): Annual Staff Family BBQ at Camp Weredale - noon to 4 p.m.  
(For more information: Kim Kurtz, 932-7161, loc 340).
- September 16<sup>th</sup>: Staff Golf Tournament at Bonniebrook  
(For more information: Leo Ferguson, 932-7722, loc 315).