



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

FOSTER FAMILIES FROLIC

(Contributed by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, liaison with the FFA and the CCC)

Every year the FFA organizes two very special activities for foster families. The first, the **Family Fun Day and Picnic**, at Ile-Ste-Hélène, was held on August 6th. It was sponsored by CHOM FM who donated 40 tickets for access to the beach. Foster families present encouraged the FFA to continue to hold this event. The second, the traditional **Day at La Ronde**, took place on August 19th. This activity used to be open only to youth over 14; however, two years ago the FFA decided to include younger children as well, as long as an adult accompanied them. This year, 83 people participated, of which 63 were children and adolescents. Everyone had a wonderful time!

BBO SURVIVES RAIN

It was a dark and stormy morning in the Laurentians and in Montréal on the day of the annual staff family BBQ at Camp Weredale. For quite a few people, this meant that the event was washed out. But as often happens with summer storms, by noon the sun was out. At least 20 staff and their children, along with other family members and friends got the camp to themselves under bright sunny skies, and before a wind that made sitting at the water's edge an adventure. The customary swimming, tubing, kayaking, strolling around and snoozing were just as enjoyable as ever. Thanks to Darlene Bray for organizing the event, and to our host Keith Earley who proved his skills at the new and impressive camp BBQ.

GOOD-BYE BATSHAW

(From Anne Marie Carrière, Educator)

It feels like just yesterday I started to work for Shawbridge, but it was 23 years ago. The first few years on the Prévost campus I met and learned the grass-root ways from the CCWs who had worked there forever, most particularly the Baillie team. Then, I joined the Bourbonnière team where I stayed 18 years. It was a fabulous place to learn, evolve and grow as an educator and as a person because of the team's generosity and the rich clinical culture of the program. And it was fun! The last year, giving the workshop on suicide prevention with Kees and Wendy allowed me to meet many of our teams and appreciate their hard work and dedication.

It is time, however, for me to try something different, but not before I take a bow to all the wonderful people I have worked with. I salute my beloved team at Bourbonnière (which is a family to me), educators, social workers, managers, nurses and other clinical partners, all of those who support the clinical work at the reception, in the offices, at the Association, and everywhere, and the clients who often open their hearts to us and enrich us. Sharing the job for twenty some years with people so dedicated, open and diversified has been most enriching and counts for a great part of who I am now.

Thank you for having been awesome work partners!

P.S. I can now be found at Psychiatry Social Service at the Hôpital Notre-Dame du CHUM, 890-8000, local 24565.

GLOBAL CHILD POVERTY

We meet many children in the course of our work who have faced considerable privation and suffering, and this in Canada which is a developed country with many strengths and resources. The picture for children on other parts of the world is yet more somber.

- Over half the children in the developing world live without basic goods and services critical for survival and development.
- One in six children is severely hungry; one in seven has no health care at all; one in five has no safe water and one in three has no toilet or sanitation facilities at home.
- Over 640 million children live in dwellings with mud floors or extreme overcrowding; and over 300 million children have no TV, radio, telephone or newspaper.
- Over 120 million children are shut out of primary schools, the majority of them girls.
- 180 million children work in the worst forms of child labour; 1.2 million children are trafficked each year; 2 million children, mostly girls, are exploited in the sex industry.
- Child poverty has risen notably in richer countries. Only four developed countries - Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States - have fewer children living in low-income households than in the late 1980s. In 2000, only Finland, Norway and Sweden had child poverty rates below 5 per cent.

To attempt to redress the situation at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, 189 Heads of State and Governments pledged to work together to meet what are called the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. They are:

- 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
- 2 - Achieve universal primary education,
- 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women,
- 4 - Reduce child mortality,
- 5 - Improve maternal health,
- 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,
- 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability,
- 8 - Develop a global partnership for development.

An estimated US\$40-70 billion is needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The world spends almost 1 trillion dollars annually on defense, and many countries, including some of the poorest, continue to budget far more for military armaments and personnel than for health or education.

This fall the UN members are meeting to review how much, or little, progress has been made in the first five years. You can follow this review in the media or on unicef.org.

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

- October 11th: Board meeting and Annual Public Information Meeting (for info.: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, loc. 202)
- October 16th: Foster Family Week (For info.: Marie-Pierre Ulysse, 989-1885, loc 268)
- October 31st: Staff appreciation week & dinner (Nov. 3rd) (For info.: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, Loc. 202)