

# Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

## SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION

### MISSION STATEMENT

*(As mentioned in the June Edition, here is BYFC's revised mission statement, approved by the Board on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006)*

Children and youth have a right to live and grow in safe and stable environments. To this end, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres provides psychosocial, rehabilitation, and social integration services primarily related to the Youth Protection Act, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and An Act Respecting Health Services and Social Services (R.S.Q. Chapter S-4.2). It also ensures the provision of services related to child placement, adoption and adoption disclosure, expertise to the Superior Court and mediation.

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres' services are provided to residents of the island of Montreal who wish to receive these services in English and to the Jewish community of Montreal, in either French or English. In addition, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres offers rehabilitation placement services to English-speaking youth throughout the province of Quebec.

Our commitment is:

- To the protection, safety, and development of the child.
- To strengthen the role of parents and of the family unit.
- To contribute, where possible, to the prevention of placement and the recurrence of conditions that put children's well-being at risk.
- To plan for stability and permanency in the child's life.
- To support mandated caregivers when they become involved.
- To provide individualized services to meet the needs of children and their families, and to act to protect society when necessary, respecting the various laws that govern us and within the limits of our resources.
- To respect the values, beliefs and sexual orientations of those we serve in this community which has many races, languages, cultures and religions.
- To promote the professional development of our staff.
- To work with other organizations which will help us to provide quality services, manage effectively and above all, to promote the interests and rights of young people and their families.

### MR/MC COMMITTEE

*(Contributed by Margaret Douek, Assistant Executive Director)*

Anna Renda was elected chairperson at the May meeting. She will begin her three-year term in September. Bekaye Dembele, YOS; Andrea Jones, DYP; Gail Bell, A.M.; Gloria Francis, Family Preservation; Nitzie Schwarcz, Jewish Advisory Committee; and Carhone Green, Community Group Homes, DRTSA joined the Committee at the June meeting.

The Committee thanks Felicia Agyekum for her tremendous dedication as chairperson since November 2000 and all the outgoing members for their contribution throughout the years they represented their divisions. The MR/MC Committee will continue to work towards making Batshaw a work environment that is sensitive to cultural and racial issues. Gail Bell was chosen as vice-president at the June meeting.

### IN SPIRIT WITH ART

#### MOUNTAINVIEW SCHOOL AT THE MUSEUM

*(Contributed by Julia Paré, Program Coordinator, DRTSA, Community Group Homes)*

A vernissage was held on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts to open the educational display of our Mountainview and Bourbonnière clients' art work. It represents a year of hard work and collaboration by the museum.

A special thanks to the museum for inviting us to be part of the "Sharing the Museum" program, the CIBC Miracle Children's Fund for their financial support and encouragement, and most of all to Debbie Walsh who has been the inspiration and leader of this project.

Congratulations to all the youth whose artistic talents are on display at:

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts  
Passage (Level S1)  
1380 Sherbrooke Street, West

It is worth the trip and is open until September 3, 2006.

### BATSHAW FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING EVENT: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

*(Contributed by Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations)*

The Parisian Laundry was the setting for the Batshaw Foundation fundraising event - AN EVENING WITH RIOPELLE on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The evening was magical! Everything contributed to its resounding success: the art work, the creations by designer Michel Desjardins, a silent auction, as well as the generosity of sponsors! More than \$30,000 was raised! All proceeds will go towards Camp Weredale-related activities.

This evening would not have been possible without the devoted volunteers who worked relentlessly in the last few months to organize this event. We must also recognize the extreme generosity of sponsors and donors. Thanks to everyone and... Congratulations!

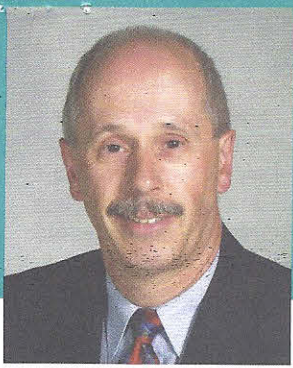
### STAFF BBQ: GREAT RESULTS!

*(Contributed by Darlene Job, Team Leader, Tobin House, and Marion Leroux, Manager, Foster Care)*

Thanks to all who helped make the 6th annual camping BBQ a huge success. Despite the cold, wet, and windy day, staff were out there standing in line for their burgers, (another amazing job done by our BBQ crew!) and buying lots of raffle tickets! The total amount collected was over \$2,350! Thanks to the amazing group of people who sold tickets, baked for the bake sale, sold at the bake sale, to those who helped set up and clean up, and of course to our sponsors for the great gifts that were on the prize table. Thanks also to C.C. Walker who came out but wasn't able to sing for us because of technical difficulties.

We are looking forward to a sunny day for the 2007 BBQ!!!

*And... thank you, Darlene and Marion for your wonderful commitment!*



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### MONTREAL POLICE SERVICE, CENTRE JEUNESSE DE MONTREAL AND BATSHAW CENTRES SIGN 12 PROTOCOLS

*(Adapted extract from a press release prepared by SPVM)*

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, twelve cooperation protocols were signed by Yvan Delorme, Director of SPVM, Jean-Pierre Duplantie, Director of Centre jeunesse de Montréal – Institut universitaire, and Michael Udy, Executive Director of Batshaw Centres.

In order to provide consistent services for the French, English and allophone communities on the island of Montréal, the three organizations agreed to review and synchronize the existing protocols and to combine their procedures.

Twelve protocols have been created to improve information-sharing and increase awareness of investigation procedures to improve the effectiveness of intervention measures taken with young people receiving services from youth centres. The protocols are based on increased cooperation and more in-depth knowledge of the rules and processes involved.

For more information: check our intranet!

### LIFE AS IT IS FOR YOUTH OF THE WEST ISLAND: NOT ROSIER THAN ELSEWHERE!

*(Contributed by Howard Nadler, Manager, Liaison with Network Partners)*

The West Island Youth Table recently completed a study titled, *Portrait of the West Island Youth*. The Table brings together 32 partners (including Batshaw) who provide services for youth. The study was made possible through funding provided by the Crime Prevention Fund of the Minister of Public Safety of Canada.

The study unveiled a reality faced by West Island youth that is accentuated by their physical and geographic isolation to which they feel confined. Transportation issues add to their difficulties such as drugs and alcohol, victimization, social isolation and dropping out of school. These difficulties result in an elevated rate of suicidal behavior. Several regions are amongst the most disadvantaged in Montreal, including Sainte-Geneviève, the village of Sainte-Anne-de Bellevue and the Cloverdale area of Pierrefonds.

The study demonstrates the necessity to develop activities and services to respond to the psychosocial and recreational needs of West Island youth. Existing resources tend to be limited or are difficult for the youth to access. This explains, in part, the large numbers of youth who consume drugs and alcohol in local parks, the significant level of violence reported by the youth and the growing phenomenon of youth who belong to "pseudo street gangs".

Please contact me at 514-989-1885, ext. 239 to obtain a copy of the report.

### RESEARCH : STAY TUNED!

*(Contributed by Claude Laurendeau, Director of Professional Services)*

When Mr. Batshaw visited us a few years ago, he challenged BYFC to turn its attention to research and evidence-based service delivery: the latter means that our clinical programs and services are in line with known best practices; it also suggests that we systematically generate and integrate relevant information into our decision-making on an individual as well as on an organizational level.

Aside from our ongoing research and evaluation initiatives (such as Looking After Children, Family A.R.T. and Intervention Planning), this spring we experimented with a 'Journal Club': 12 to 15 staff, guided by Nico Trocmé, examined research on the topic of Domestic Violence. Soon, Batshaw will, in partnership with McGill University, the McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families and the Association des centres jeunesse du Québec undertake a new adventure; with funding from the federal government (the Knowledge Impact in Society program), we will, over the next 3 years be working on a project called "Evidence-based Management in Child Welfare Services": its purpose being to further integrate research in our policy and program development and our clinical practice.

Stay tuned, as we move along, you will hear more!

### TABLE DE CONCERTATION EN VIOLENCE CONJUGALE'S PILOT PROJECT

*(Contributed by Madeleine Bérard, Program Manager, Family Preservation Program)*

Last year, the Montreal Protocol for Children Exposed to Conjugal Violence was approved by the following partners: the SPVM (police), Montreal's CSSSs, Women shelters, Treatment services for men who batter, Côté Cour, Centre jeunesse de Montréal and Batshaw. This protocol, which was initiated by the *Table de concertation en violence conjugale de Montréal* in collaboration with the Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de services de santé et services sociaux, aims at :

- Establishing mechanisms to protect children exposed to conjugal violence (victims and children);
- Providing appropriate assistance and services for these children;
- Reducing short, medium and long-term consequences for these children;
- Assuring efficient collaboration between agencies that intervene with the different family members;
- Increasing clinical expertise in intervening with these children.

In order to validate the protocol, a pilot project was instituted, which involves several professionals within Batshaw. After an initial information session on the use of the protocol, these workers will experiment using it in a defined territory: the CSSS de la Montagne, which covers Côte-des-Neiges, Métro and Park Extension areas.

It is an exciting project, in that it seeks to enhance our response to real and pressing needs of our clientele by promoting a collaborative and united approach with several of our community partners.

### THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

**August 6<sup>th</sup> (Sunday):** Annual Staff Family BBQ at Camp Weredale  
12 (noon) to 4 p.m.  
Information: Darlene Job  
5140932-7161, ext: 316

**September 15<sup>th</sup>:** Staff Golf Tournament at Club Bonniebrook  
Information: Leo Ferguson  
514-932-7161, ext: 455