



APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

8th INTERNATIONAL CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CONFERENCE: SOLD OUT!

(Contributed by Sherwin Laptiste, Member of QAE Board of Directors)

From the four corners of the world they came. Over 1600 delegates from 37 countries gathered here October 17-20 at the Palais des Congrès for the 8th International Child and Youth Care Conference. They participated in over 120 workshops geared towards the conference theme, "**Beyond Borders: Caring for the future of Children, Youth and Families**". This huge undertaking, under the leadership of conference co-chairs Tony Maciocia of Batshaw and Jean-Pierre Hotte of *ACJQ*, owes its success to the partner organizations: Council of Canadian Child & Youth Care Associations, *Association des centres jeunesse du Québec*, Association of Child & Youth Care Practice, *Association québécoise d'établissements de santé et de services sociaux*, *Association québécoise des CPE*, and the Quebec Association of Educators.

Keynote speakers were, Dr. Michel Lemay of Hôpital Ste-Justine, Dr. Larry Brendtro of the USA and Judge Renate Winter of the United Nations. The opportunities for learning, sharing and networking with fellow practitioners broadened our perspective on caring for children, youth and families, and better prepared us all to face the challenges of the future with optimism and passion.

Batshaw was well represented and can take pride in the tremendous efforts of Tony Maciocia, QAE Executive Director, Phillip Alleyne, QAE President, and more than 100 from our agency who contributed beyond the call of duty! Thanks for making this a memorable experience!

QAE ANNUAL AWARD RECOGNIZES TWO BATSHAW EDUCATORS

(Contributed by Tony Maciocia, Program Coordinator - DRTSA and QAE Director)

The Quebec Association of Educators (QAE) held its Annual Awards as part of the International Child & Youth Care Conference on October 19. This year's recipients for the Award for Excellence in Practice & Commitment to the Field were Roger Fortin and Kim Parker, both well experienced educators working in DRTSA. Congratulations!

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

The annual Batshaw Staff Recognition celebrations took place during the week of October 23rd. Each division held receptions to award certificates to staff who have reached 7 and 15 years of service. I was happy to attend each of them accompanied in most cases by our new President, Judy Martin. On Thursday, October 26th, the annual dinner was held for those employees who have reached at least 20 years of service and for those who retired during the year. The evening at the Centre Mont-Royal was delightful! The organization of such a week requires enormous amount of work and I would like to thank everyone involved, and especially Thérèse Gauthier for this wonderful success.

The staff of Batshaw have a deep investment in the agency. The picture of length of service of 1073 employees as of October 31st is as follows:

7 years and more:	189 (17.6%)
15 years and more:	208 (19.4%)
20 years and more:	115 (10.7%)
25 years and more:	125 (11.6%)
30 years and more:	60 (5.6%)
35 years and more:	2 (0.2%)

FOSTER FAMILY RECOGNITION DINNER

(Contributed by Leigh Johnston, Coordinator of Resources - Division of Child and Family Services)

At any given moment, Batshaw has over 500 children in over 300 foster homes, and once again, the BYFC Resource Department was happy to celebrate their contribution by treating them to dinner at the Atwater Club. We were also able to celebrate the fact that BYFC foster parents, Jackie and Jean-Guy Miron were selected by the CWLC for outstanding achievement as foster parents. The dinner is a small gesture when we stop to consider that foster parents are caring for our children 24/7 without any remuneration for their time. I mentioned that evening that foster parents were ordinary people doing extraordinary things, but in taking time to reconsider, they truly are extraordinary!

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

(Contributed by Leo Ferguson, Program Manager, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

This year's annual golf tournament was held on September 15 at Bonniebrook Golf Club. With over 125 participants, this event continues to grow in popularity.

The winners included the returning team of Nick Paré, Alan McFarlane, Fred Spencer and James Alexander - best overall score - 8 under par. Other winners included Judy Martin, Shelja Arya, Judy Tupling and Cathy Millar - best score ladies; Monique Laverdure, Benoit Saindon, Janet Mitchell and Anmarie Pearson - best score with handicap.

Through the efforts of many, we managed to raise over \$2000 for client related programs and activities including the Ways and Means, Camp Fund, Christmas Fund and the DRTSA Youth Choir.

Many thanks to participants, those who helped out and to our many sponsors.

DAWSON COLLEGE

The events at Dawson College on September 13th, even though they did not affect Batshaw directly, nonetheless had quite a significant impact. Some of our staff were near Dawson and in Alexis Nihon when the shooting began and while people were fleeing without knowing exactly what was happening. Several of those staff returned to work quite shaken. Other staff had family members and friends in or possibly in Dawson and were desperate to make contact and get information. Staff also were listening to news reports and hearing that perhaps more than one shooter might be loose in the neighbourhood. This led to activation of the front entrance electromagnets in our buildings in the area as a precaution.

Later we came to know that there were victims connected to Batshaw staff. Meanwhile Batshaw staff volunteered to help. Some nurses went to the site and offered help to *Urgences Santé* staff. Later a roster of Batshaw clinical staff was offered via the *Agence* to Dawson. I received feedback this offer was appreciated even if it wasn't used. Lastly, the events have prompted us to review our own preparedness for a crisis, and made us realize that our view of a crisis has to extend beyond what could happen inside Batshaw to what can happen in the community around us. My personal thanks and appreciation go to the many people who took action and/or volunteered their help.

November 2006