



APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

7th ANNUAL BBQ ON JUNE 7th

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

The 7th annual staff BBQ will be on June 7th in front of 6 Weredale Park. Come join us for a free BBQ lunch! The BBQ crew will once again be flipping burgers and hot dogs for everyone. Great prizes as usual, fun and entertainment! Let us hope for a hot sunny day!

See you all there in support of our clients attending summer camp this year!!!

Don't forget to check your junk drawers and pockets for those unused Canadian Tire \$\$\$ to donate to our cause.

INVITATION TO OUR 10th ANNUAL POW-WOW ON JUNE 16th

(Contributed by Andy Simon, Team Leader, Bridges)

This year is our 10th celebration and it promises to be a grand gathering. A few of its unique qualities -- spectators can freely mingle with the performers, join in the dance and witness the joining of Northern and Southern Native tribes with the Inuit people. This spectacle is one of its kind in Canada!

Everyone is invited to attend this very special cultural (and free) event! The festivities are held rain or shine. There's also free busing (RSVP: 514-932-7722, ext: 0).

Come celebrate, feast and dance on Saturday, June 16th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Prévost Campus, 3065 Labelle Blvd., Prévost!

THREE NOMINATIONS FROM BATSHAW FOR CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF CANADA (CWLC) 2007 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

• Advocates

(Contributed by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, Liaison Officer, FFA-CCC)

Mr. and Mrs. Essing are members of the CCC, Batshaw's users' committee. Ruth and Leon advocate for users, and make sure that the rights of children and parents are respected. Users who ask for advocacy services are often experiencing the most difficulties negotiating with the system. Users are always well received by the two advocates. Users seen as difficult by the establishment often make gains with the support of advocates. Being an advocate is not easy; they must be supportive to the client, critical of the establishment while maintaining a working relationship. The Essings have volunteered for the past eleven years and devote over 25 hours a week to advocacy. This service is beneficial to users, it also enriches the organization.

• Foster Family

(Contributed by Barbara Bass, HRA, Resources, DCFS)

Mrs. Chassagne is a remarkable human being that we are fortunate to have as a foster parent. She remains a source of inspiration and humility. In fact, Mrs. Chassagne prefers to work "behind the scenes" and would prefer that any spotlight be shone on her foster children instead.

She has taken very challenging children and helped them to become functional, well-adjusted, blossoming children despite the ongoing daily struggles and setbacks. Nothing fazes her. She remains calm, compassionate, and allows kids to take their time in telling their story.

Mrs. Chassagne has sharp observations and assessment skills of children's behaviours, their affect and non-verbal body language. She is well respected by other professionals and she is seen as a valued contributor to our clinical team.

• Volunteer

(Contributed by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, Liaison Officer FFA-CCC)

Mrs. Joy Abel is a foster parent, an Executive Member of the Foster Family Association and a member of the MRMC Committee of Batshaw. Through her involvement on committees Mrs. Abel developed many activities: the Fashion Show for Black History Month, the trip to Canada's Wonderland for foster families and foster children...

Mrs. Abel has big dreams for children in care and is extremely devoted to ensure their happiness. She is the driving force behind many activities. Mrs. Abel wants the youth to build positive memories. She feels that these memories can help rebuild the youth's self-esteem and also be a safety net that the youth can turn to in time of sorrow.

"JAMING" FOR A GOOD CAUSE

(Contributed by Gordon Applebee, Manager, Prévost Campus)

A group of amateur musicians, mostly Prévost Batshaw employees, meets periodically to "jam". When news travelled around campus that several colleagues were struggling with cancer, they decided to do a benefit concert and pot-luck dinner at a local bar. To help ensure a good turnout, it was scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21st, following Prévost unit team meetings. According to the bar manager, approximately 100 colleagues attended. The band played 3 sets of 15 songs (a mix of classic folk and rock tunes) and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. A representative of the local branch of the Canadian Cancer Society dropped by to pick up the \$830 that was raised.

Band members thank *Bar Le Contact* for allowing the event and providing door prizes, Merv Atta-Segal for coordinating the pot-luck dinner, Stéphane Hamel and Patsy Sheehan who collected donations, and everyone who participated.

Guitar and vocals: Wayne Adams (coordinator), Bob Brunet (educator), Jim Prophet (former employee), Gordon Applebee (manager); bass guitar: François Berthiaume (painter); flute: Donna Applebee (librarian); percussion: Larry Makowicz (educator), Marc Desjardins (intervention agent).