



APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION

THE YOUTH CONFERENCE FOR CREATIVITY AND INDEPENDANCE

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

The CCC (Batshaw User's Committee) has been hosting an annual conference for over ten years; however, this year's conference was totally different and innovative since it was organized for the youth and by the youth. It was held on May 10th, at Prévost Campus.

The day began with a family feud game opposing youth and staff (guess who won!). It was followed by keynote speaker, Carleen Joseph, Program Director at Aspen Youth Experience, in Colorado. Carleen spoke about her experience as a youth in care at BYFC. She shared the story of her life and everyone could see how inspirational she was for the youth who did take the time to ask many questions. Carleen's presentation was followed by the traditional BBQ lunch. The afternoon was reserved for a talent show prepared by the youth. Music, dance, poetry and circus entertained the audience.

Congratulation to all the youth!

WHAT A CONFERENCE!

(Contributed by Kathleen and Marie-Noel, Ways and Means)

On May 10th, a CCC conference was held at Prévost Campus. In the gymnasium approximately 125 kids all waiting for new beginnings. Carleen Joseph, a past Batshaw client, put her past behind her and became some one with pride dignity and hope. Hope for every single one of us there. She gave us all something that day. She gave us belief that we could be something. We can be anything we choose to be. We have heard it all before "put your mind to it", "you can do it", "just try harder" but she really put it into perspective for us.

After lunch, various kids from campus showed everyone their talents, some danced, some rapped and some sang. After the inspirational speech, we really discovered that, hey! we are all ok, and we can do this, we can become something other than just another juvenile delinquent. After all, we are human too. The last act of the day, circus, flexed its muscles with pyramids, juggling and break dancing. It was a spectacular show.

As this being the first youth conference on Prévost campus many of the clients enjoyed and found the day amusing. We find that the conference was successful because it was youth oriented and here at Prévost campus. We believe it would be good to spread out to other campuses in Batshaw allowing other locations the opportunity to experience a great day like ours.

MDC ANNUAL MEETING

(Contributed by Sandra Baines, Chair, MDEC)

The annual meeting of the Multi-disciplinary Council was held on May 25th at 6 Weredale. In the early years of the MDC, the annual meeting preceded the fall professional day. However, with the keen participation of so many in the showcase of our clinical work at professional day, the executive made a decision to have the annual meeting in the spring with a guest speaker to liven up the sometimes

dry administrative proceedings. This year marked the third annual meeting held in the spring and judging from the quality of the programs presented, I think you will agree that we have a winning formula.

The morning agenda included a presentation by Geraldine Crisci whose expertise on the impact of trauma on brain development was particularly welcome as so much research and literature is emerging in this area. We were fortunate that Geraldine was also available to meet Prévost staff on campus where she presented more specifically on the challenges of intervention with youth in residential care.

Another highlight of the meeting was the launching of the 3rd edition of the MDC Journal. The theme of permanency brought submissions from all parts of the agency - a collection of articles written by our professional staff, including art and poetry. Particularly touching was a letter from a youth whose fear and helplessness was so poignantly expressed as he leaves care at 18. If you have not yet received a copy of the journal, contact your MDC rep. It's good reading. A big thank you to all who contributed.

GREAT RESULTS FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL BBQ!

(Contributed by Darlene Job, Child Care Worker, Tobin House, and Marion Leroux, Manager, Foster Care)

The 7th annual BBQ was a great success! Thanks to all the helpers: the set up and clean up crew, the BBQ crew, the great raffle ticket sellers, the bakers and the bake sale table ladies! Ted for the great job as MC, prize table ladies, silent auction guys, all those who donated prizes and any one else who was generous with their time to make this event run as smooth as it did. Most of all, a big thank you to all of you for attending and supporting the cause.

Here are the results: bake sale table \$775, silent auction \$725, raffle tickets \$2,300, for a grand total of \$3,800! This is an amazing amount in just one hour! The kids thank you!!!!!!!

PRÉVOST CAMPUS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

(Contributed by Kim Parker, Chair, Centennial Committee)

In 1907, the Boys' Farm and Training School was established in the village of Shawbridge, now known as Prévost. On Saturday, August 25th, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres will celebrate the campus' Centennial, and invites everyone to join at 1 p.m. for this celebration, rain or shine.

The program starts with a Corn Roast luncheon from 1 to 2 p.m. As of 2 p.m. the main gates will close and a historical slide show and a DVD presentation will take place in the Sir Edward Beatty Gymnasium. Our youth created the film to honor the memory of all those who worked on the campus and for the youth who have lived there in the past century. A guided tour of the historical sites of the campus, including an archaeological dig of an old foundation, will conclude the celebration.

Come celebrate on Saturday, August 25th, starting with the Corn Roast luncheon from 1 to 2 p.m., followed by a slide show, a DVD presentation, and guided tour from 2 to 3 p.m. at Prévost Campus, 3065 Labelle Blvd., Prévost.