

# APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

## SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION

### SOFTBALL – ANNUAL YOUTH CENTRES' TOURNAMENT

*(As reported by Michael Udy)*

If it's the end of August then it's time for the hardy diehards of Batshaw's softball teams to head to the annual Youth Centre tournament held this year in Québec under very soggy conditions. This is probably what held back the Batshaw teams from scoring enough runs to win a game, any game. But team organizer Bob Davey's faithfuls don't need to win games to have a good time. They find other ways to enjoy themselves. Take, for example, the last inning of a close game where on the last play, shortstop Ron Golfman treated us to a sudden and very convincing rendition of Swan Lake. There he was, arching gracefully through the air, his white uniform gleaming in the rain, like feathers, landing with an impressive splash in the small pond that had formed behind the pitcher's mound. Waves swept the ball from his hand and the winning run scored. But the moment will remain forever in our minds.

The next tournament will be held in Rimouski, August 22-24, 2008. The last time we played there was in 1993 under near monsoon conditions. If you like softball and would like to have this kind of fun just send a Lotus Note to Bob Davey in Baillie Unit at Dorval Campus.

### PROJECT TEN

*(Contributed by Carlos Eduardo De Castro, Application of Measures, Tupper, Division of Child and Family Services)*

Project Ten which we know as P10 is a community organization for LGBITTQ youth founded by Bill Ryan a number of years ago. Project 10 works to promote the personal, social, sexual and mental well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersexed and questioning youth and adults aged between 14-25.

Through advocacy and education, using a harm reduction approach, Project 10 aims to facilitate the empowerment of youth at individual, community, and institutional levels with a particular emphasis on supporting individuals and groups who experience multiple and intersecting oppressions.

Services are free of charge, confidential and anonymous, and are offered in English and French. P10 services are: listening line, peer counselling and accompaniment, online groups, drop-in, advocacy, workshops, kiosks and trans-health.

P10 has 4 coordinators: Tynan Jarrett, Sarah Blumel, Devon Simpson and Sabrina Pregent. I have been on the Board of Director's for almost three years representing BYFC. I report directly to

Margaret Douek on this aspect of my work. It has been a great experience for me. The Board is composed of people with different nationalities and backgrounds, including different professions, which for me represents what Canada is all about. I have to confess that I feel a bit old among this young generation. I am bringing to the P10 Board of Directors some of my experience in the GLBT groups that I worked with, participated and experienced for several years. The P10 group is made up of people who have great ideas, are enthusiastic, hard working, resilient and optimistic.

P10 has grown in the past years and is now an independent community organization which is financed by the *Agence de la santé et des services sociaux* and uses Batshaw's facilities. However, this will change next year. After a long discussion at the P10 Board, P10 decided to move to the Arc-en-Ciel building where we'll regroup all the GLBGT youth groups in Montreal. This building is located in the Gay Village. This move will happen sometime in the spring of 2008. We are not sure at this point if P10 will leave a satellite office at BYFC and what kind of relationship P10 will have with us after the move.

During my involvement in P10, I had a chance to meet youths who have been victims of homophobia, discrimination, etc. The pain of the youth is the same we have faced for many years, despite some of the rights gained by the LGBITTQ community. These issues are still alive and continue to be an important matter and a concern to me.

### URBAN ART DISCUSSION WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

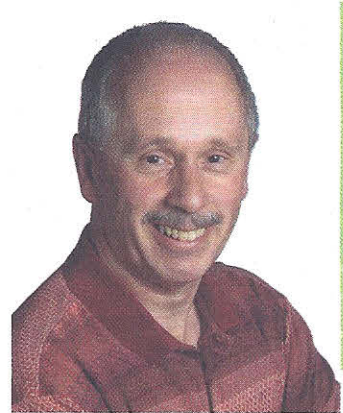
*(Contributed by Lynn Dion, resource person for the LYLO program)*

As part of the Governor General's national tour to explore ways in which youth in Montreal are using the urban arts to combat youth crime and improve their neighborhoods, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres were invited to take part in this discussion. The Governor General, Michaëlle Jean, was participating in her fourth community forum on youth and the urban arts. The discussion included approximately 100 young artists from different neighborhoods of Montreal as well as public officials. Two of Batshaw's young artists participated in this forum. One of them shared with the Governor General and the other participants a poem she wrote. We also had the opportunity to see young artists perform for the Governor General whether by their songs, their dances, their poems. This meeting took place on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, at *La Maison des jeunes de la Côte-des-Neiges*.

September 2007

5, rue Weredale Park, Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1Y5





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## SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION (cont'd)

### CENTENNIAL OF PRÉVOST CAMPUS

There will be a special report in our October Issue. Don't miss it!

### THE SOCIAL CIRCUS ROAD TRIP

*(Contributed by Wayne Adams, Program Coordinator, DRTSA, Prévost Campus)*

The Social Circus continues to be going strong. As a finale to this year's group, we traveled to the Morin Heights Elementary School on June 14<sup>th</sup> with eleven performers to give a Djembe drum and Circus performance. After their performance our youth gave a workshop allowing the students a hands-on experience in circus and drumming skills. Our Social Circus youth were at their finest, making us all very proud of how well they interacted with and coached the young students. They all had a great time experiencing the chaos of the Social Circus and the drama of the drums in the background. The Morin Heights students expressed their appreciation at the end of the afternoon, and the next day sent a huge thank you card with their individual expressions and comments plus hopes that we might return next year. The Social Circus troop all went out to the local Prévost fast-food joint for a well-earned reward of hot dogs, chips and ice cream. This was very much appreciated. After this experience I think we can count on more road trips to show off our talents and give our youth the opportunity to share their skills with others.

### STAFF BBQ AT CAMP WEREDALE

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

This year again, the day was gorgeous! More than 100 people participated at the staff BBQ on the waterfront of Lake L'Achigan.

Many thanks to Ross, Lori, Howard Martin and the staff who welcomed families and friends. There were plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy and fun was definitely the theme of the day!

See you next year!

### POWWOW 2007, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TO DATE!

*(Contributed by Mervat Atta-Segal, Powwow Planning Committee)*

On Saturday, June 16, 2007, Batshaw Centres, in conjunction with the people of Kahnawake, hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Traditional Powwow, entitled, "Honouring our Youth". This has been our most successful year with a wider range of activities, and performers. An estimated 2500 people were in attendance.

The day began earlier than usual when a Canadian Armed Forces helicopter, bearing 5 members from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, landed on our football field at 10:45 a.m. It was a very exiting sight to have the aircraft hover over the football field and delicately land precisely on its mark. The public was invited to meet the AF members and get a close-up look at the helicopter.

The Powwow got underway with the traditional "Grand Entry" followed by a ceremony to honour 1<sup>st</sup> Nations Rangers. Not many people know that 80% of the CAF Rangers are 1<sup>st</sup> Nations. Two Rangers were in attendance for this ceremony.

The performers and guests included:

- "Big Stone" our host drum joined by "Tiontiake" Montreal's Native Friendship Center drum.
- 51 traditional jingle and grass dancers.
- Fancy dancers, David Trudeau and Adrian Harjo (southern Ontario) and 12-year-old hoop dancer, Amber Chief (Maniwake).
- There was representation from Mohawk, Iroquois, Micmac, Lakota and Algonquin, Metis.
- Micmac elder, Donald Parent, taught youngsters to play traditional sacred drum and Olmeque Mayan elder, Manuel Lopez Fiero, held a prayer ceremony to unify the tribes.

Once again the Cree elders set up a teepee in a traditional hunting "village" and shared samples of meats from their hunt in keeping with their traditions. Youth and staff of three group homes from Chisasibi and Mistissini accompanied them.

Many visitors came from native groups such as: MCH's "Tasiutigiiit" group (Innu), Northern Module (Innu), Montreal Native Friendship Center and Native Women's Shelter.

Although this event is put together by the Powwow planning committee and Rudy Montour, of Kahnawake, it could not be possible without the help and input of many Batshaw employees and services. Many thanks go to Sam Barile and Eric Moran, the Prévost maintenance department, our security / transportation department, the Prévost food services team, led by Gérard Houle, our nurse Margaret Larmour and first-aid responder Kris Brown, our many volunteers, all employees working on the day of the Powwow who kept a close eye on their wards and visitors to ensure a pleasant and safe day, and the Batshaw clients who helped host the day to ensure its success.