



# APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

## PRÉVOST CENTENNIAL

*On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Prévost Campus commemorated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It gave us an opportunity to appreciate the help given to over 13,000 youth who have lived there during that time, to appreciate the difficult work done by the staff who now work there, and to glimpse some of the accomplishments and energy of the youth living there today. Many thanks go to Kim Parker who chaired an organizing committee of her colleagues. Here is her account of the day:*

Merv Atta-Segal, Grace Courey, school principal, and helpful youth transformed The Beatty Memorial Gym into a banquet hall where over 120 guests enjoyed hotdogs, sweet corn shucked by Sam Barile and the Ways and Means kids, and a delicious cake prepared by our own chefs. Guests pored over a display of memorabilia prepared by Sheldon Segal and Marcel Baudet, and watched a Power Point presentation of old pictures of "The Farm". A few speeches followed the meal, the most poignant being that of Mr. Manny Batshaw. He had youth stand and be applauded to underline we are all here for them. This gesture and his commitment to finding funding for research in our field left everyone with a sense of hope for the future.

Aleta Durant introduced a documentary prepared by Mountainview North students and staff who interviewed three retired employees. Their memories provided us with a perspective on what life was like over the 60-year span they covered.

As the rain gave way to sunshine, Hans Bongers introduced the Social Circus and we were enthralled by the energy of the youth and staff, as they juggled, performed acrobatics, and played the tamtam. It was a perfect finish to the indoor celebrations.

The sun shone long enough to allow our visitors to meander past historical stations placed around the campus and to participate in burying the Time Capsule prepared by the youth. Everything from T-shirts, to poems and rap songs, to a juggling and waffle ball, were jammed into the container.

As Mr. Batshaw got in his car, the rains reappeared. But later, as I left, I saw a double rainbow arched over our campus. I took it as affirmation that we indeed have been a part of "100 Years of Caring".

## BATSHAW-THON 2007

*(Contributed by Jean Tremblay, Manager, Technical Services)*

On Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, the walkers and runners of Batshaw went against all winds along the Lachine Canal. We are happy to say that they all finished their 10 km with class. Congratulations to all participants, we have picked up the fantastic amount of \$ 6,307. Everybody agreed that it was a success and are interested in doing it again next year. We thank all our sponsors, members of the committee and their helpers. The date of the 2008 Batshaw-thon will be announced soon so you can train and prepare properly for this athletic event. Do not forget "Kids First"!!!!

## A CHANCE OF A LIFE TIME!!!

*(Contributed by Karen Goodhand, Program Manager, Couvrette, Homeward Bound)*

For the third year in a row, Northwaters & Langskib Wilderness Programs worked collaboratively with Batshaw and our Foundation to provide a powerful "a chance of a lifetime adventure" for our youth! After much preparation and support of the Couvrette Group Home team, I left the comforts of the city and headed off to Temagami, Northern Ontario (which as it turns out is a code name for the middle of nowhere!!!)

Alongside two wonderfully skilled Northwaters leaders, we were able to introduce 6 of our youth to many new challenges and life changing experiences, that I am sure will be referred to for many years. Unfortunately, in spite of support and encouragement given to our adventurers, the great outdoors was more challenging to some, there were some youth sent home. Nonetheless, an opportunity to stretch limits and experience real-life challenges through canoeing, portaging, hiking and camping was given to our youth, and all of us, even those who went home, will relish in our successes and they will be forever etched in our minds.

Northwaters embraces a philosophy that comes from native values and traditions. Methods of adapting to nature and the challenges living within nature are meant to encourage and prepare youth towards the rite of passage onto adulthood. For those 10 days, we lived in the moment, as a community, building on skills with integrity, gaining personal insights, team work, and strength that natives accomplished many years before us. Much needs to be said about those who were able to go out of their comfort zones and meet those challenges, as those gains will be with them forever. Congratulations to them!!!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Batshaw Foundation for appreciating and supporting this type of initiative. Such powerful initiatives change lives. There is no doubt in my mind that these youth will leave placement with memories and experiences that they will look back on for the rest of their lives with pride and assurance. They now know that they can go beyond and take on the challenges that life will and can throw at them.

## THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

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| <b>October 30<sup>th</sup>:</b>                   | <b>Foundation Fundraising Special Event</b><br>Parisian Laundry<br>6 to 9:30 p.m.<br>Information: Angie Bisson<br>514-989-1885, ext: 201 |
| <b>November 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>:</b> | <b>Staff Recognition Week</b>  |
| <b>November 12<sup>th</sup>:</b>                  | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>6 p.m.<br>Information: Thérèse Gauthier<br>514-989-1885, ext: 202  |