



APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2008: UNITING COMMUNITIES: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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

Black History Month starts tomorrow! This year's theme is very interesting and should bring all of us together to discuss and share.

This year again, the events will be held on Thursdays in order to increase participation from our clients and our staff! Block in your agenda every Thursday in February because an exciting program has been developed!

February 7th: Our famous **Talent Extravaganza** including the Fashion Show and the Young Black Achievers Awards will start at 3:30 p.m. What a great way to launch that special month!

February 14th: The movie "Mama Africa" will be presented at 9:30 a.m. We are especially inviting our older adolescents and staff to attend. A discussion will follow and of course will focus on this year's theme.

February 21st: **Panel Discussion**, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Panellists include **Jean-Ernest Célestin**, Commander of Station 15 in Little Burgundy, he is the first Black officer to reach the upper echelons of the Montreal police department, and **Michael Applebaum**, Mayor of NDG/CDN Borough. A discussion with the audience will follow. You don't want to miss it!

February 28th: Our unique **Luncheon** will start at 12:30 p.m. If you buy your ticket in advance the price is the same as last year, \$12, if you decide to buy your ticket at the door, it will then be \$15 but only if tickets are still available. To avoid being disappointed, buy your ticket in advance. Our lunch is really unique gastronomy-wise but also in uniting staff. There is no better way to end such a wonderful and meaningful month!

All these great activities will, once again, take place in the auditorium at 6 Weredale Park.

MDC PROFESSIONAL DAY

(Contributed by Gina Carvalho, Foster Care Department and Susan Gallo, HRA, Family Preservation Programs)

The 7th annual MDC Professional Day was held on November 23rd. Participants' feedback was positive as staff reported they were enriched by the variety and quality of the presentations; from experiential workshops to theoretical and community-based work. A special thanks to all the presenters who shared of themselves, their clinical knowledge and expertise: Robert Calame, Cynthia Davis, Nicolette de Smit, Benoit Langevin, Kees Maas, Gloriajean Murphy, Howard Nadler, Kim Parker, Rodney Selman, Anna Virgini, Debbie Walsh.

Thank you also to Joanne Marcotte and Robert Grauenfels for their great administrative and technical support. And finally, a big hand to the organizing committee, Sandra Baines, Gina Carvalho, Susan Gallo, Tanya Johnson, Virginia Kerr, Doris Low.

With the beginning of this New Year, we invite you to release your creativity and consider a new idea: how about developing a presentation for **MDC Professional Day**

Autumn 2008? A call for workshop presentations will be made in early spring.

SO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY! BATSHAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

(Contributed by Nicolette de Smit, Challenges Program - DPS)

Wednesday, October 3, 2007 marked the day that the Batshaw Alumni Association was created, when a group of Batshaw retirees and employees came together for their first annual meeting. Hosted by Ed Potter-Mäl, the group discussed their vision for the Association, and elected an interim Board of Directors. Michael Udy welcomed the participants, and assured the group that BYFC is interested in seeing the Alumni Association succeed.

The participants described their objectives in becoming involved with the Association: "to keep in touch with the child welfare network, and to socialize with others"; "to show that we are proud of our work and committed to it"; "to stay in touch with friends and events at Batshaw"; "to make sure that the brain does not get rusty"; "to act as mentors during the transition period when all the baby boomers start to retire".

The group discussed that retirees have many years of experience and expertise between them, and that a complete cut from work-life and colleagues after retirement is not healthy. As a result, the Alumni Association can be a source of great richness for the agency, and an important resource for the people who join.

The following interim Board of Directors was elected. These members will serve as the core group to carry forward the development and activities of the Alumni Association:

President:	Sherwin Laptiste
Vice-president:	Ron Feltus
Secretary:	Julia Paré
Treasurer:	Marie Leduc
Liaison w/Batshaw	Claude Laurendeau, Van Small, Dino Ciarma, Nicolette de Smit

A brainstorming session for future activities followed. Ideas included: newsletter or internet site; specific volunteer activities; social activities; fundraising projects; mentoring programs for new employees. Without a doubt, there will be more news in the future as the Batshaw Alumni Association shifts into gear.

PAYROLL – SPECIFIC LOTUS NOTE ADDRESS

(Contributed by Christina Savard, Coordinator, Financial Services)

Please note that Batshaw now has a new specific Lotus Notes address for payroll. You can now correspond and get all of the answers to your questions through this address. We will acknowledge receipt of your request within 24 hours. In order to guarantee the transmission of your request to our service, we ask you to use only this address for payroll related issues.

How to access:

Using the directory, type: &06CJ_Batshaw, Payroll

Using the address box, type: payroll, **Press:** enter, **Select in the list:** Payroll&06CJ_Batshaw/1