

# APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

## MESSAGE FROM MARGARET DOUEK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My first address as the new Executive Director of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres coincides with the election of the first Black President of the United States.

By the time you read this article, the election results will be old news. This morning, however, it is the leading headline announcing a stunning victory. Politics aside, it is an inspirational story that has as a sub-text that anything is possible and that despite a history of racism that cannot be erased, this victory will go a long way to instilling a sense of pride and determination in a population that will overcome this past.

This single event carries a message of hope that has resounded around the world and has significance for us in the work we do with clients who often feel hopeless because of the circumstances which place them at a disadvantage.

I know that you will use this concrete example over and over in your work with youth and families as a symbol of what can be achieved with determination.

My report of surviving the first month in office will be placed on hold until the next Newsletter. It has been overwhelming but pales in comparison to the challenges which will have to be faced by President Obama in his first month of office.

## THE RUTH AND MANNY BATSHAW AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2008

*Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations*

On October 20<sup>th</sup> the third Ruth and Manny Batshaw Award of Excellence was announced at an uplifting and emotional ceremony at 6 Weredale Park. It was presented to:

**Maureen McKeown**, *Team Leader of Bourbonnière Group Home, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents.*

Maureen personifies the definition, role, and spirit of the title, "Educator". She has been in the service for others for over 30 years. Maureen's dedication to a high level of practice is an example that motivates all staff. The clientele at Bourbonnière is among the most vulnerable and unpredictable in the division of residential services, and every day Maureen is there to empower the clients to not only follow their treatment plans, but to challenge them to work through extremely complex and destructive behaviors.

The Selection Committee also gave four certificates of meritorious achievement to:

**Debbie Boyer**, *Administrative Agent, Application of Measures – West Island (Dorval-LaSalle-Lachine Team) – Division of Child and Family Services.*

Debbie defines her clerical role at the agency, as "I'm there to support the staff, that's what the term Support Staff means". Sounds simple: it's not. She goes above the job description daily.

**Ola Dupelycz**, *Administrative Technician - Division of Child and Family Services.*

Ola has been an integral part of both the Xmas Basket Campaign and the BBQ to raise money for camp funds.

Her organizational skills help us to plan the events and to carry them through over the years.

**Ted Larivière**, *Manager, School Liaison – Assistant Executive Director's Office.*

Ted has contributed significantly and in a major way to the establishment of positive links with external partners in the education system and the development of programs and joint processes to benefit Batshaw clients.

The above is but a glimpse of their accomplishments, please go to the intranet to learn more and to read about the other 13 nominees. Take a moment to look at the pictures of a wonderful evening!

## HALLOWEEN AT DORVAL CAMPUS

*Fil De Santis, Educator, Dorval Campus - DRTSA and Peter Desmier, GEMMA Program – DRTSA*

On Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Dorval Ways and Means Committee hosted the annual Campus Halloween Party. As usual, this party was a big success; it was well attended by all the units (clients and staff). The youth showed great creativity in their costumes, and prizes were given for the best costumes and games. Special treats were provided by the Dorval kitchen and the Ways and Means Committee. This event could not have taken place without the volunteers who contributed to the planning, decorating and animating of games. Thank you to Dorval security and kitchen staff for their support, and to Stephanie McIntyre who on her day off came in to be our DJ. A special thank you to all the reps of the Ways and Means Committee, to Sandy Parkes, Lynn Dion, and Paul Ford who continually volunteer their time and energy to make this party a success.

## BATSHAW-THON 2008 RESULTS

*Angie Bisson for the Batshaw-Thon Organizing Committee*

In 2007, for its first edition, the Batshaw-Thon raised \$6752.26 which was great! This year, \$8181.05 was raised, an increase of more than 20% compare to last year! What an amazing result! Congratulations and many thanks to all those who participated, and gave time and money. See you all next year!

## VIDEO: MANNY BATSHAW – A LIFE OF CARING

*Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations*

A video about Manny Batshaw was made at Batshaw Centres' request. The whole process took about 2 years, from the first idea about it to the completion of the work. The final result is fascinating. Manny Batshaw tells about his life and shares with us his values. Michael Udy and Hedy Taylor are among a few persons who spoke about the impact of Manny Batshaw on the way we now work with our clients and their families.

This exceptional video is now available to you if you wish to watch it. You can simply borrow it from the Library. There are 2 versions, the original (44 minutes) with many details about Manny Batshaw's life and his vision of our field, and a short version (19 minutes) presented to our new employees as part of their orientation.

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