



A PROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION

MESSAGE FROM MARGARET DOUEK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is my last submission to the Apropos newsletter as I leave my responsibilities of Executive Director and hand over the baton to Lesley Hill, newly appointed to this position by the Board of Directors.

I consider myself very lucky to have worked in the helping profession for almost 39 years of which 35 have been in child welfare during a period of time when the network of services was exploding with new approaches, new laws, and new structures to improve service delivery. It was an exhilarating time to be a part of the evolution of services and it provided me with so many opportunities to learn, grow and rub shoulders with extraordinary people from so many different walks of life.

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres is a wonderful organization with its unique culture, rich history and deep-rooted connection in the community it serves. It has been a privilege to represent and lead this organization for the past five years. The time has flown by and although there were many challenges to overcome it was extremely rewarding and fulfilling. I have worked with incredible staff and volunteers who are dedicated and passionate about their work.

Batshaw Centres has taken great strides forward in the last few years. Many projects have been launched as we go through a period of accelerated change which is ongoing. There is a wealth of expertise in the organization to assist and guide us as we move forward in the choices ahead.

Lesley joined the organization a year and a half ago and has managed in a very short span of time to create strong partnerships with all those she works with. She leads by example and has gained the respect of colleagues and partners alike. She has a vision of quality of services and is very client-focused in all her decisions.

I am very pleased with the choice of the selection committee and have every confidence in the future leadership of the organization. Congratulations to Lesley!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and your engagement in working with vulnerable children, youths and their families. The work you do contributes to a noble cause, that of helping and creating conditions where children and their families can develop their full potential.

I will be championing your work from the sidelines, never forgetting you as I move on to another chapter in my life.

Goodbye and good luck,

Margaret

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET

In this edition of Apropos, the Batshaw Management Committee (BMC) wishes to celebrate some of Margaret's successes and to wish her all the joy in the world for her upcoming retirement. Margaret has been a charismatic, gentle and caring leader for this organization over the last 5 years. Many outside partners speak of Margaret as a 'classy femme de coeur'. Margaret has proudly represented Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and has had a lasting impact on improving services in child welfare.

The first thing that people remember about Margaret is how caring she is about other people and what great respect she has for other human beings. Margaret just has this special way of making people feel important, considered and cared for. She is

a person who celebrates diversity and who truly believes in and contributes to creating a world free of discrimination and intolerance, where every human being is recognized and has an important role to play. Being a strong believer in people, Margaret has promoted a strength-based, collaborative approach within Batshaw Centres and has permitted the organization to consolidate a human vision where client needs and staff needs are taken into account and provided for. Margaret's perseverance has brought about the realization of our campus projects in Dorval and Beaconsfield, so as to create better living and working environments and better services for youths in care.

Margaret's client-focus has kept our eyes collectively fixed on the goal of making a difference for children and families. She has tirelessly worked towards building solid partnerships with the research community so as to understand the work we do and continue providing the best care for children through evidence-based management. Margaret's intimate and profound knowledge of youth protection work and rehabilitation services has helped her to guide our organization through many important changes. One sees the character in a person in the face of adversity. Margaret has made courageous decisions through difficult times by falling back on her great wisdom, strong values and integrity.

Connecting Batshaw Centres to the rest of the network has been one of Margaret's greatest achievements. She has built strong partnerships and has given us opportunities to share our expertise and to learn from others. Her efforts to ensure continuity for clients have produced better partnerships and we will continue to persevere in this direction so as to connect clients with the services they need to thrive and live better lives.

Building teams and bringing out the best in people being one of Margaret's greatest strengths, she has supported each one of her senior managers and built a very strong, committed and efficient team who will continue the good work. We want to thank her for her wonderful leadership.

What distinguishes a great leader from a good one? In Margaret's case, it is her character and humanism which has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many people. We wish her well and we want to express all of the gratitude that we feel. We will truly miss and always remember her.

Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others. —Jack Welch

Thank you Margaret. We wish you all the happiness in the world and to relish the joy of being a grandmother. You have left behind a legacy that will assuredly be continued!

Madeleine Bérard, Maureen Cohen, Linda Corbeil, Lesley Hill and Leigh Johnston, your BMC.

THE RUTH AND MANNY BATSHAW AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2013

Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations

The Ruth and Manny Batshaw Awards of Excellence presentation took place on November 20th during the Youth Centres Week.

The Selection Committee was composed of Mr. Christopher Fuzessy, a Batshaw Centres Board member, of Mrs. Tina Khan, a Batshaw Centres Foundation member, and Mrs. Sylvie Godin, Executive Director, *Association des centres jeunesse du Québec*, familiar with our mandates and functioning.



APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION (cont'd)

The recipients of the Ruth and Manny Batshaw Awards of Excellence 2013 are:

Administrative and Support Excellence

Michael "Mike" Cousineau, Team Leader, Intervention Services, Prévost Campus, Division of Finance and Administrative Services

Clinical Excellence – Psychosocial

Derrolton James, Social Worker, Challenges, Division of Professional Services.

Clinical Excellence – Residential

Paul Ford, Program Manager, Baillie, Dorval Campus, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents

The recipients of the Certificates of Meritorious Achievement are:

Administrative and Support Excellence

Sharon Lafrance, Recall, Cook – Housekeeper, Roxboro Group Home, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents

Administrative and Support Excellence

Wanda Siklosi, Driver, Evaluation-Orientation Units Support, Division of Youth Protection

Clinical Excellence – Residential

Cathy Millar, Team Leader, Crossroads, Division of Child and Family Services

GOLDBLOOM AWARDS 2013 TO JUDY MARTIN

Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations

Judy Martin, President of Batshaw Centres Board of Directors, received The Sheila & Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award 2013 at a ceremony held at the Saint James Club, in Montreal, on October 17th.

This award honours Judy's unwavering commitment (as she is known to youths and staff) to helping and supporting people in need. This takes various forms such as her involvement in the fight against muscular dystrophy, her work with the Weredale and Hylean Foundations (and her active involvement in the Batshaw Centres Foundation a few years ago) as well as the chairmanship of the Batshaw Centres Board for the last six years. But beyond the day-to-day administrative work needed to properly run and manage an organization like Batshaw, it is her direct involvement with children that is extraordinary. In fact, Judy loves to spend as much time as possible with them, taking part in ping pong tournaments and football games and in countless other activities with boundless energy. She sums up her motivation: "Everything I do is because I really like kids. These kids are special and it's my pleasure and my privilege to make them feel that."

Created in 2009 by the Quebec Community Groups Network, the Goldbloom Awards celebrate individuals who have contributed to the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community and to building bridges of understanding between Quebecers of different backgrounds.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Madeleine Bérard, Director of Youth Protection

This is the tenth year that the DYPs of the province join their voices to speak of the reality of the children and families involved in Youth Protection and this year again we do so, but with a special emphasis on the fundamental importance of individual actions.

The future of every community depends upon its capacity to foster the health and well-being of its children from generation

to generation. By investing judiciously in the development of children and the support to families, the next generation will in turn contribute to the community in a productive and socially responsible manner.

Children have an absolute and irreplaceable need to receive the benevolent and vigilant attention of adults in order to grow strong and healthy, and launch themselves into life with hope and pride.

But children are also vulnerable: they take in what we give them and are highly sensitive to our words, our gestures. Their self-image is built upon this as they seek to find their place in the world and be loved. They will grow up beautiful and competent if they feel acknowledged in their strengths or hurt and self-doubting if they feel ignored, stigmatised or maltreated.

The cost of maltreatment is colossal, both in economic terms but even more so in human terms. The physical/emotional suffering is compounded by sequelae which hinder the healthy growth, stunt the emergence of strengths and talents. It puts children on a track to delinquency and marginalization. It leaves traces which too often scar more than one generation... Acting today to counter maltreatment means acting today to change tomorrow.

Protecting children goes far beyond making a signalement to the Director of Youth Protection.

Protecting children means looking out for all children, however challenging, difficult or different they may be.

It means caring for all children, safeguarding them from violence, rejection, jeering, and indifference. It means ensuring that they have a place in the world; that they are recognized in their entirety and that their personal dignity is always, always preserved.

It means acknowledging their strengths and helping them work through their limits and their vulnerabilities.

It also means contributing to their happiness and well-being by paying attention to them, taking the time to listen to their dreams and their passions, by encouraging them to go forward, comforting them, making them laugh, telling them stories, encouraging their creativity, giving them opportunities to learn and discover the world, providing them with routine and appropriate structure.

It means being there, always, in order to unfold the treasure that they harbour within and let it shine fully.

Making a difference is not an abstract gesture; it is the sum of individuals taking the time, one child at a time.

Protecting children means committing oneself on a daily basis to small gestures, in a thousand and one ways.

Of course, there also needs to be more global, systemic action such as sufficient leisure community programs, policies against poverty, early prevention programs, etc. But at the root, these actions are the actions of individuals who want to make things change, who put children at the heart of our society, by concentrating on the essential.

The following quote is particularly significant to me in its universality: it was shared by a colleague DYP of mine up in the North, yet originally said by a great South African man:

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." Nelson Mandela

LAST EDITION OF APROPOS

This Apropos edition will be the last one in this format. Our communications will from now on take another path, starting with a pilot project. Stay tuned!