

BATSHAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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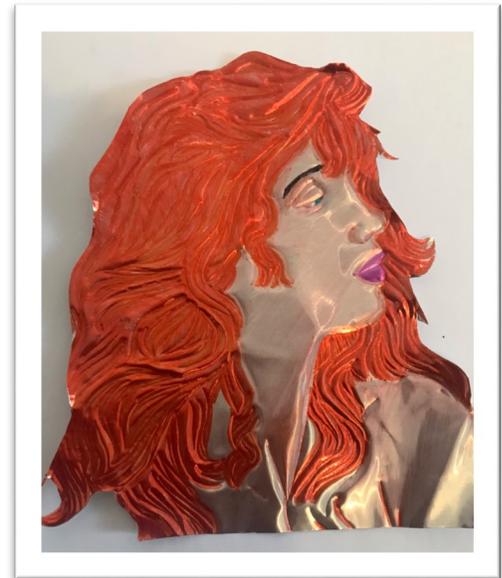
October 2018

In Touch with the Spirit of Art Annual art exhibition

By Deborah Walsh

"In Touch with the Spirit of Art" is an annual art exhibition that provides young people with a showcase of their artistic talent and self-expression. The exhibition, held at 6 Weredale Park, is the fruit of a project initiated and co-ordinated by Debbie Walsh, an art therapist.

The exhibition's goals are to help young people increase their self-esteem, self-confidence and self-reliance with the decisions they will make as they create art and select it for this exhibition. By exposing the participants to visual arts, the exhibition also helps to open the eyes of the participating young people to their own creative potential.

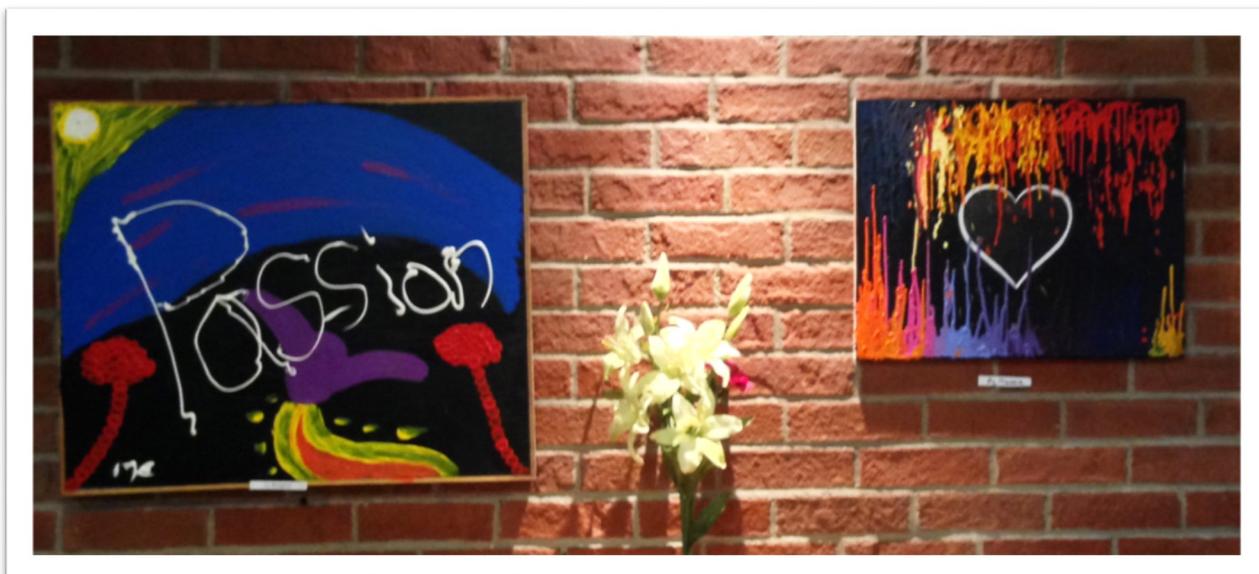
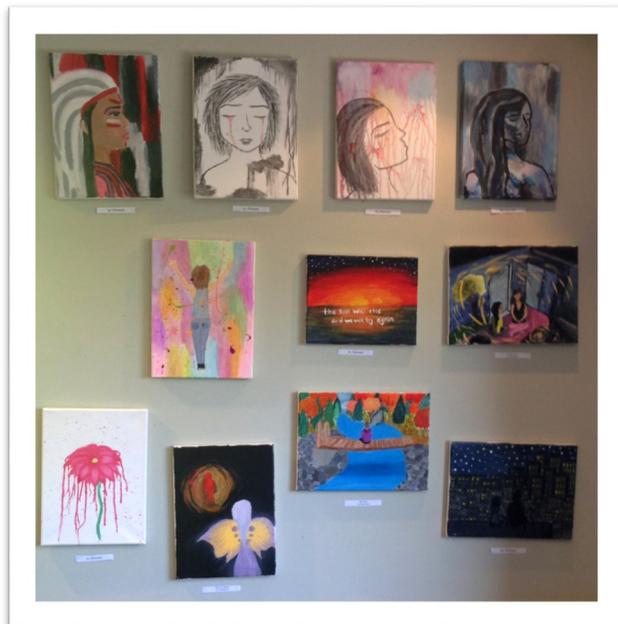
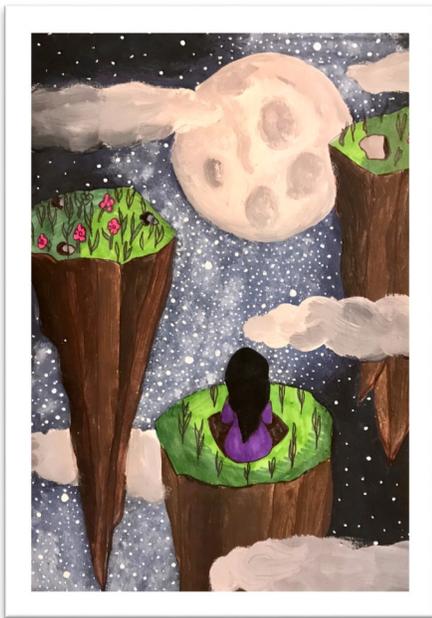


As well, the process is a social one that builds a sense of community and mutual support among those involved. In Touch with the Spirit of Art began in 2002 in an art gallery on St. Denis St., moving subsequently to its current location in the cafeteria of 6 Weredale Park, where it has been held every year except in 2006, when the show appeared at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. That year, the young artists attended workshops at the museum.

Participants get to experiment with a variety of techniques and materials, including clay, paint, printmaking, and mixed media. Through the use of art materials, the participants have the opportunity to channel their energies to positive ends.

Drawing, painting, sculpture, poetry, and multi-media – plus poetry and prose – are all included in this year’s exhibition. Each artist receives an exhibition catalogue as a memento of their participation. A PDF file of the exhibition is available for visitors upon request.

The young artists present us with face-to-face, compelling and evocative experiences as revealed through their thought-provoking and expressive portrayals of their impressions and inspirations. The exhibition expresses the gamut of human emotions through a wide variety of artwork, prose and poetry.





Unveiling Manny Batshaw Commemorative Plaque

By: Assunta Gallo

On April 17, 2018, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres paid tribute to Manny Batshaw by unveiling a commemorative plaque located at 6, Weredale Park, in Westmount. The plaque honours Mr. Batshaw's exceptional commitment to youth and their families for over 50 years. Moreover, the date of the unveiling was thoughtfully selected, as Manny Batshaw would have turned 103 on that very day.

In 2002 Manny drew our attention to the importance of research and evaluation. He asked us "How do you know that what we do is the best that can be done? How do you know that it works?"



"These questions elicited many exchanges and came to change the way we looked at program development as evidenced by the Batshaw Centres Neglect Program that included an implementation evaluation from the beginning. And.... it led to the development of a partnership and the creation of McGill Centre for Research on children and families. Another key message which is precious to me is to speak up honestly and transparently when it comes to concerns about children. Manny raised concerns about the lack of safety, the lack of care children were receiving and when he was asked, "Are children safe? Is this good enough for our children?" Manny put « children first » and saw the importance of advocating on children's behalf.

This plaque is a bronze moulding of an impression of Manny Batshaw's hand, and the symbolism behind this choice is significant. It was created by Deborah Walsh and Marc-André Fortier, who sculpted the four bronze statues honouring hockey legends at Centennial Plaza, located outside the Bell Centre. The ceremony was attended by members of Mr. Batshaw's family—including his son, Dr. Mark Batshaw—his friends, former colleagues and partners, members of the MWI IUHSSC's management team and Board, as well as employees of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres.

Manny Batshaw spent his lifetime extending a helping hand to children and youth in need. The hand is commonly used as a sign of protection. Manny advocated for children's protection. That this image now marks the entrance to 6 Weredale Park that bears his name, strongly underlines his life's work, an unwavering dedication to young people.



From left to right: Assunta Gallo, Director of Youth Protection for the MWI IUHSSC; Judy Martin, family friend and former Chair of the Batshaw Centres Board of Directors and current member of the MWI IUHSSC Board of Directors; Dr. Mark Batshaw; Richard Legault, Chairman of the MWI IUHSSC Board of Directors; and Benoit Morin, President & CEO of the MWI IUHSSC.



Our Adventures in Israel.

By: Robin Bondaroff

My husband and I have been to Israel before. In fact, I actually lived and worked in Israel, in my previous life, in the early 70's. However, we decided to spend more quality time there, on our own, and experience life as it is for people living there. We left in early May, and spent 5 weeks in total in various parts of the country. Our first 10 days we stayed in a very charming and quaint air bnb in Jerusalem. We were walking distance to many of the places in the city we wanted to visit, and just around the corner from a very large outdoor market, where we could buy just about anything we needed. We walked a lot and enjoyed visiting the old and new parts of the city. It is truly a very unique and special place to visit, no matter what your religious beliefs are.

From there, we moved to Tel Aviv, which is a very different city and experience from Jerusalem. Jerusalem has a more religious spirit to it, and Tel Aviv is much more secular in nature. We had the opportunity to visit several museums we had not been to before, and learned a huge amount about the country's history, the various cultures, and other aspects of Israeli life. We met people from all over the world, as well as Israelis, and everyone was so warm, friendly, and helpful. Also with time, my Hebrew came back to me, and I was able to communicate with natives in both Hebrew and English.

The highlight of our trip was the last 2 weeks when we went to volunteer on an army base, through an international organization called SAREL. This was something we had talked about and planned for over the past few years. We were assigned to a medical supply base near Tel Aviv. That first day, we were brought to the base, and assigned our rooms in our barrack. Women were in rooms upstairs, and men were downstairs. We were fortunate that our barrack building was quite new and so we had indoor toilets, showers, and even a wash machine on each floor. The rooms were clean and bright and sufficiently roomy. We did not know what to expect, and were more than satisfied with the accommodations, and the food. We were given uniforms, which we had to wear during work hours, and the daily schedule. Our schedule included breakfast at 7:15, followed by flagpole at 7:45. Our work day was from 8-12 noon, and 1-4 pm. Lunch and dinner were an hour, and there was an evening program every day, when we learned about the various divisions of the Israeli armed forces, various aspects of Israeli life, and heard from a variety of guest speakers. One speaker who left a lasting impression on me was a female dentist, with a thriving practice, who volunteered as part of a CSI team, travelling all over the world helping to identify victims of major catastrophes.

We were assigned to various work groups. I worked in a smaller warehouse with 2 of my Montreal friends and an adorable Israeli supervisor. Our jobs were to pack huge medical bags with supplies and equipment. The bags are used by medics and medical personnel, both in Israel, and in other countries. People don't necessarily know that Israel is always one of the first countries to respond when there is a natural disaster, anywhere in the world. Our work was physically demanding, and exhausting, but very rewarding. We knew that the bags we were packing would be used to help to save lives somewhere in the world. What better feeling is there?? The Israelis we worked with were all so appreciative of us, and made the work fun too.

There is so much more I could say about this adventure, but I will just say, we can't wait to go back. It was truly one of the most memorable experiences of my life.



Camp Weredale - Tribute to Howard Martin

By: Elizabeth Pusztai

This was a very special summer at Camp Weredale!



Since 1982 Howard Martin has ensured that each year Camp Weredale was ready to welcome and serve its campers. This 84th year of Camp Weredale's existence was an opportunity to pay a very special and personal tribute to Howard in recognition of the care, commitment and continuity he has provided to youth for over a third of the camp's lifespan.

On July 21st, the first day of the construction holiday, the Weredale Foundation celebrated Howard's retirement after 36 years of being Camp Weredale's Executive Director.

Guests included a veritable "who's who" of colleagues, friends and family who have had the pleasure of supporting or working alongside Howard in his efforts to maintain Camp Weredale throughout the years. Some drove many hours from Toronto; some sat in cars for many hours on the Laurentian autoroute navigating the holiday traffic; some gave up their one week-end off. All said they wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Camp Weredale has a long and storied history which began in 1934 when the camp opened as "a summer home away from home" for the boys of Weredale House. Campers from that period, the "Old Boys", are not only keepers of the traditions, memories and history surrounding the camp, they are actively maintaining the "Weredale Old Boys" Facebook page, organizing reunions at the camp, and providing donations for needed equipment and repairs.





Today the camp continues to provide fun, skill building camping activities for boys and girls aged five to seventeen who are facing challenges and are in situations where opportunities may be limited. A little over half are under Youth Protection. Campers continue to exhibit the same attachment to the camp as do the "Old Boys". Many are returning for the 4th and 5th year as campers. Some have returned as counsellors. One camper, who attended with two of his siblings this year, explained that his mother had been a camper as a girl. One "Old Boy" shared that his 3 great grandchildren attended the camp this summer.

Howard's commitment and devotion to generations of campers does merit tribute! In addition to the recognition he received from the Weredale Foundation and from the Batshaw Foundation; it stands to reason that the Quebec Camping Association also honored Howard with their "Prix D'Excellence" in recognition of a career that has left lasting impressions on generations of children and their families.

Camp Weredale represents a long-term connection for many. It is safe to say that without Howard there would not have been a Camp Weredale legacy to pass on to future generations.

*An accredited member of the Quebec Camping association, Camp Weredale is owned and operated by the Weredale Foundation. Only a quarter of operating expenses is collected in camping fees. No camper is refused because a parent cannot afford the registration fee. Donations and grants are relied upon to make up the balance of the expenses.

For camper registration and job applications: www.campweredale.com For donations to Weredale Foundation: canadahelps.org or Judy Martin (hylcan@sympatico.ca)
For "Old Boys" go to Facebook and search Weredale Old Boys

My Sapummivik Summer

A story of compassion and resilience

By: Qallunaat



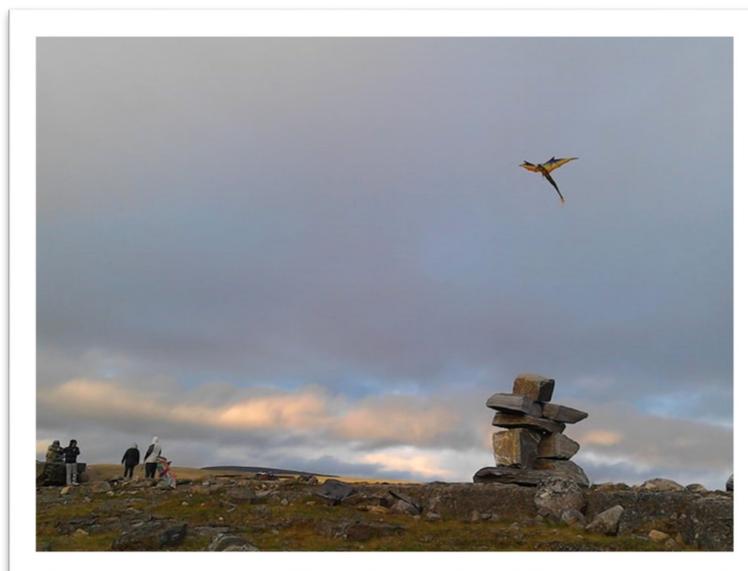
If anyone had told me that one day I was going to work in an institution similar to the ones I had once lived in, I would have told them that they were off their rocker. When I went on independent living at sixteen, after growing up in the system from age five, I could not get far enough away from anything to do with group homes, foster homes and detention centres.

That all changed one day last summer, three decades after leaving the system when I met a woman from Nunavik who worked in a unit for adolescent boys. She asked if I would be interested in a summer job living and working with kids in the Arctic. I instantly jumped at the chance and I could not have made a better decision!

It is cold up north, summer temperatures range from 12 to 15 C., yet much more bearable than this summer of 40 degrees plus heat that occurred in Montreal and surrounding areas. Isolation was another factor I had to consider, though for me, it was more of an enticement than a deterrent.

The unit I worked in, called Sapummivik (Safe Place) was known locally as "The Rehab", but rehab is often associated with substance abuse. Though many of the kids did have substance abuse issues, this was really a detention unit, primarily for behaviour modification. Most of the kids were placed there through the DYP- because of home life, and some through the Juvenile Justice system for crimes committed in the community from whence they came and would eventually return.

My first week working in this residential environment brought back many memories of what living in an institution was like. The fluorescent lighting, the sound of keys jingling and that same antiseptic smell had not changed one iota in three decades.



The ambience it created was a stark reminder of the isolation I had once felt, along with feelings of powerlessness, fear and loneliness. I saw these emotions in the kids too, and often would try and distract them in order that they not dwell too much on such thoughts. It was no longer the same for me now, as I was free to go outside and smell the mountains and sea, anytime I needed. Whenever they could, the kids would often ask if they 'could follow', and with intimate knowledge of why, I rarely denied them.

Primarily hired as an Intervention Agent, (I.A.), I worked as an Educator as well. The I.A. ensured the safety of the unit, while the latter would lead the daily schedule. There were many activities such as swimming, fishing, hiking, weights, and driving around the mountains.

Working with the Inuit was a lot of fun. They played games they made up that developed from living so far off the grid. They often kept me laughing so hard, I would have to take a break to catch my breath. Though there are a myriad of issues they are contending with, at the end of the day, they are still just kids and love to play.

Even though I was Qallunaat, (non-Inuit), I embraced their life ways, especially the food. I was not averse to eating beluga, snow goose, caribou or any other country food brought to the unit. I loved every single morsel and they knew it. It was not just the food, but the food prep as well. It was all quite exciting to me, and the kids just relished my enthusiasm.

It was sad when my employment time ended, but I had to return to law school.

I have been offered a position next year, but it is still too early for me to commit. If it is at all possible, I would return in an instant!



From Where I Sit

By Judy Martin

Wow, now what most of us are asking ourselves?

On September 30, 2018, our CIUSSS-ODIM started a new three year mandate. We have a new CEO in Lynne McVey, we have three new Board members but the balance of us are re-named for our second, and last accordingly to Bill 10, term.



The big question will be, who will our new Health and Social Services minister? Rumour says it might be Danielle McCann, familiar to many of us as the former head of the Agence, a friend to the social services portfolio as she was a career social worker. Danielle was a friend for Batshaw and also worked very closely with some of the CIUSSS-ODIM directors so, if named, she will be very familiar with our challenges and will hopefully address them.

In the meantime, there are many challenges that Batshaw clients are affected by; lots of staff turnover and retirements have meant a lot of new faces that are still learning the mission, waiting lists are as long as they've ever been. I know that the alumnae are very concerned, and that the coalition is continuing to meet with the powers that be.....good for you!!!

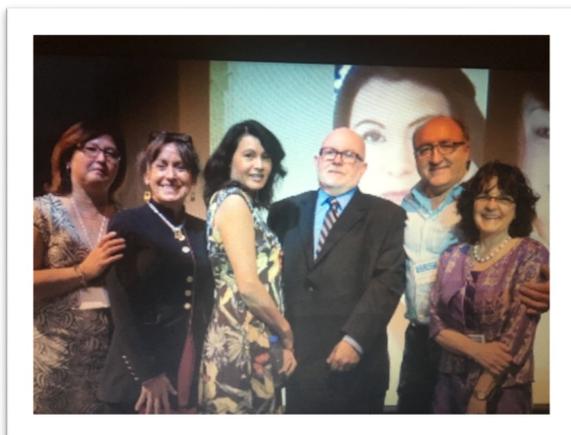
I continue to hold the position of President.....but of the Quality and Vigilance Committee! My door is always open to hearing your concerns, please never be afraid to reach out.

THANK you all for still caring so much for 'our' kids.....they deserve it, don't they??

~

HEALING OURSELVES~HEALING OTHERS 2018

By Tony Maciocia



The Quebec Association of Educators (QAE) along with Champlain College RAC/SCC and the support from the AEESSQ and the CIUSSS-West Island played host to over 250 participants from across the Province.

This year's conference was primarily focused on helping professionals to help and "Heal Others" by providing support, guidance, tools and care. There has been an unspoken, and very real need for self-care amongst professionals making it equally important to help and "Heal Ourselves".

This conference provided the opportunity for participants to address both. Participants acquired innovative tools and strategies to extend and hone their ability to work with clients who have diverse and complex needs. Participants shared and reflected on best practices, as well as connected with other professionals. Our Keynote Speaker NAKUSET Executive Director Native Womens Shelter led the day with a powerful and inspirational address about her own journey dealing with identity

issues. The selection of workshops included 5 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon. Most sessions were at full capacity and the feedback received was extremely positive. For the first time, the ORDER of Social Workers approved our conference for a 6 hour training. Close to 50 attendees benefited from this!

We are already looking forward to next year.

Chicken Curry with Spinach

By Sandhya Karnick

Ingredients

2 lbs - chicken, boneless, skinless thigh, bite-size pieces
16 oz pkt - spinach , frozen chopped
6 - tomatoes, medium tomatoes, finely chopped
1 - black cardamom
1" stick - cinnamon
2 - green cardamom
1 - onions, large, finely chopped
2 tsp - ginger (heaped)
5 cloves - garlic, finely chopped
green chilies to taste
½ tsp - red chili powder
1 tsp - garammasala
1 tsp - cumin powder
1 tsp - coriander powder
1 tsp - curry powder
2 - bay leaves
4 - cloves
salt to taste
4 tsp - oil



Preparation Method

Heat oil in a medium, non-stick wok on medium to high flame.

Once the oil is hot, add the Bay leaves, Cloves, Cinnamon and the Cardamoms. Add the Onions. Mix well, cover the wok and let it cook about 5 min (until the onions turn translucent with a touch of golden).

Add the Ginger, Garlic and Green Chili and tomatoes. Mix again and cover. This time around, the mixture needs to cook longer but keep an eye on it and keep stirring. The key is to let it cook till the oil separates from the mixture.

The mixture (masala) will reduce considerably in amount. Add the Chicken and the dry spices (Cumin Powder, Coriander Powder, Salt, Red Chili Powder, Garam Masala & Curry Powder).

Give it a good stir and cover. Cook the Chicken for about 5-7 min, add in the Spinach, and yes, mix again and cover. Cook for another 10 min. Serves 6-8.



Report from the President

By Zalman Bitensky President BAA

Since the last General Assembly on October 4, 2017 your executive has been working on the following activities.

The executive met on five occasions over the year during which we continued to plan programs and Discussed issues. Our membership increased by 5 and we are now 279 strong. . Newsletter No.8 was produced, the Annual General Meeting organized, and members kept informed about BAA, Batshaw, and other news and special events by email.

The Social Committee planned two Social Lunches which were well attended. A third will be organized for November (date to be determined) 2018. Our last luncheon on September 12, 2018 was a BBQ at 5 Weredale park. It was well attended.

Financially we had a quiet year. Our current bank balance is \$1272.74.

This was a busy year for your executive. We continued to liaise with Care Jeunesse (a group for young adults leaving care). We continue to monitor the progress of the Batshaw History Project through Louise Jessop who is a member. The Batshaw history project website is still looking for memorabilia from Batshaw and its constituent agencies. The BAA members' interest questionnaire mentioned in my last year's report was finished and the results were distributed to the members The main concern continued to be how to respond to what we were hearing from managers and front-line workers at Batshaw. The issues were low staff morale, high rate of staff turnover and the consequences of this on youth in care. We continued our participation in the coalition which consisted of representatives from Care Jeunesse, Quebec Association of Educators and the BAA. The executive was kept informed of development through Tony and Julia. They reported that they had met with Senior managers of Batshaw on two occasions. The meetings were an opportunity to express our concerns and for management to discuss actions being taken to improve services and working conditions. While the senior managers believed the identified problems were related to the merger's transition period and everyone's' adjustment to change, the Coalition members saw the decline in quality of services and staff morale as a result of a fundamental shift in the values, service philosophy and mission of Batshaw. We have been told by our members that there continue to concerns about declining quality in service and poor working conditions. The Coalition members will be meeting this Fall to discuss with whom and how to advance our ongoing concerns. The BAA membership will be kept apprised of developments.

September 12, 2018, we had a fundraiser (handbag and accessory sale) We raised \$ of which \$ went to Care Jeunesse and \$ to help defray the cost of the BBQ as many registrants did not show to the event.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the executive; Tony Maciocia VP, Barbara Kemp secretary, Sandhya Karnick treasurer and members at large;(Louise Jessop, Julia Paré, Carol Kimmis, Robin Bondaroff and Rose Rheault), for their hard work and commitment to the BAA. As always, thanks to you, our members, who made what we do necessary and successful. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank the agency for its continued support in providing us with an office, a place to meet and the means to communicate with the members of the Association.

I wish you all a healthy and gratifying year.

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*Please send articles, notices of events, reviews, pictures, updates, and/or other contributions for the newsletter to Julia Paré (Editor) at [juliapare@hotmail.com](mailto:juliapare@hotmail.com)*