



Message from the Foundation's outgoing President, Erin O'Brien

The fall is always a very busy time for the Batshaw Foundation and this year is no exception. A new slate of officers was voted on September 15th, including **Karma Hallward**, our new President.

Karma has been a very active member of the board since joining the Foundation less than three years ago. Along with Barbara Molson, Karma oversaw our last two fundraising events with great finesse.

The coming year will be a challenging one. While we have accomplished much in terms of raising awareness over the last two years, our overall revenues have decreased.

We will do our very best to ensure that the youth served by the Batshaw Centres (75% of whom have experienced some form of neglect or abuse) continue to receive our much needed support.

We would like to sincerely thank all of our donors and volunteers who help to make a real difference in the lives of these children. It has been a real pleasure serving as President all these years.

I will continue to support the new executive as a member of the board and have no doubts that the Foundation will flourish again under Karma's leadership.

Message from Karma Hallward, Batshaw Centres Foundation President

I would like to thank Erin O'Brien for all her hard work while she was president of the Foundation. Her continued dedication to this wonderful organization is much appreciated by all who have had the pleasure to work with her.

I am excited about this new challenge in leading the Foundation to increase the funding of our numerous programs. My inspiration comes from the staff of Batshaw Centres, who go way beyond what is asked of them, to help a family or children who are struggling in life. The Foundation Board is privileged to have met many of these staff members and will do anything in our power to support their hard work.

We look forward to your continuing support of the Batshaw Centres Foundation!

Greenhouse Update

Dave Brown, Prévost Campus Work Study Program

After a productive season of growing flowers, we have now switched over to vegetables. The eight youths in the Prévost Campus work-



study program have learned how to grow tomatoes, peppers, basil and watermelon. We have over one hundred tomato plants, most averaging over ten feet tall and carrying about eight tomatoes per plant. We harvested enough tomatoes by mid-September to provide the kitchen with all their needs for October.



At the end of September, we turned over the soil behind the greenhouse (an area of approximately 100 yards by 40 yards) to create an outdoor vegetable garden for next spring. In this garden we plan to plant corn, hot peppers, cucumbers, squash and melons, all of which will be started in the greenhouse. This produce will be distributed to the campus.

In conclusion, as an example of success in this program we have a youth who has become quite an expert at greenhouse growing and will soon be moving to Montreal. He is planning on making a career using his new-found knowledge and is applying to work at a greenhouse in town. I am quite confident he will get this job.

Thanks to all for your great support.

"Arts and Crafts" is alive and well at Camp Weredale

Howard G. Martin, Executive Director, Camp Weredale

In this age of computer game fury, it is truly amazing to see how paper and scissors, imagination and a very creative and supporting specialist can capture the attention of campers at Weredale.

Cindy-Ann Chalmers has been doing this for the last twelve years – and the campers love it!

With almost 400 different activities planned for the summer, and materials gathered to do so, Cindy directed a variety of age groups to what she thought would interest them during the time together in her workshop – in what used to be the library and projection room in the 'rec' hall.

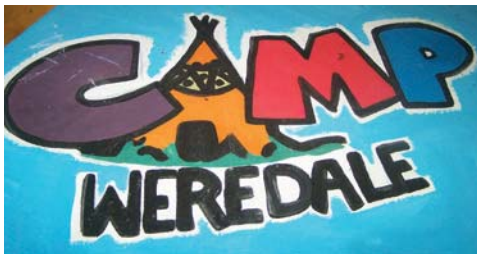
Arts and Craft workshops were offered daily – about an hour at a time, five or six times a day.



Cindy-Ann Chalmers

Each morning, Cindy animated two activity periods for the campers from two different cabins – every cabin was so scheduled three times per session. The projects were designed to be completed within the hour.

Following the afternoon rest period a workshop was animated for those who had selected Arts and Crafts as their Special Interest Program, or SIP. This group met for one and a half hours



each day and so these projects could take longer to complete.

Then there was an activity period for another cabin.

Finally, after supper there was a one hour session for “cabin interest” where selected groups came to work on a particular activity of their choice.



Gimp bracelets and friendship bracelets, candles, purses, pillows, candle holders, picture frames, air planes out of Styrofoam, wood disk sculptures and wood burn pictures head the list of what campers liked to devote their talents to.

They did so independently in a structured social environment – and loved it! No electronic games here. The completion of a specific project brought smiles and great satisfaction – and yes, many wanted to bring it home to show off their great work.

For Cindy, this was a labour of love. Asked if she could wish what would it be, her instant response was “definitely a bigger room”.

With camper interest so high, it seems that the Arts and Crafts program has outgrown the former library and projection room!

And perhaps we need also to begin thinking about expanding this Arts and Crafts program beyond the summer camping sessions.

Comedy and Cocktails: a great success for a great cause

Karma Hallward, Co-chair, Fundraising Event Committee

The Batshaw Centres Foundation was pleased to host an evening of comedy and cocktails on May 4th, 2010, at the historic Corona Theatre on Notre-Dame Street. Guests were treated to cocktails and delicious hors d’oeuvres by Chandelier.

There were wonderful raffle packages available to win, including Habs and Alouettes tickets, a curling lesson for 8 friends, a gardening consultation, gourmet food and wine and dinners at various Montreal restaurants.

The highlight of the evening was the performance by 3 of Montreal’s funniest comedians, including Jessica Salomon, Heidi Foss and David Pryde.



Tina Khan, Barbara Molson and Karma Hallward

The Foundation is pleased to announce that \$35,000 was raised to support its pillar programs.

The event was co-chaired by Barbara Molson, Tina Khan and Karma Hallward, all members of the Foundation’s board.

RESULTS

Batshaw Centres clients are supported in several important ways by the Batshaw Centres Foundation. Members of the Board of Directors dedicate themselves year round to raising the necessary funds, as they have done since 1977. The Foundation’s goal is to provide “pillars” on which futures can be built for youth and families. The Pillar programs support:

- Access to tutoring, therapy, cultural and sports activities (69);
- Activities that teach leadership skills and build confidence (22);
- Skill development programs; material and financial support to help older adolescents with limited or no family assistance prepare for adulthood and independent living (29);
- Post-secondary education and job training (56);
- A camp experience in a lakeside setting at Camp Weredale (250);
- Urgent material assistance enabling families to keep children at home under safe circumstances. (112).

The numbers in brackets represent the number of youths assisted in 2009-2010.

What a coincidence!

Michael Udy, Executive Director, Batshaw Centres Foundation

One of the Foundation’s Pillar programs is the Scholarship Fund. In the last 10 years the number of scholarships awarded has doubled to 50 a year! The first criteria for eligibility is to have received service from Batshaw in the past. This is broad and generous. It is a challenge to see that as many clients as possible become aware of this at the time they are ready for CEGEP, University, or for technical and professional training. Annual information campaigns with Batshaw staff are gradually increasing the awareness. But if a child is quite young when in contact with Batshaw, there is no guarantee that the child or their family will know or remember about the scholarship fund 10 or 15 years later.

At the beginning of the summer my wife and I made our annual trek to the local garden centre for flowers. The young man serving us seemed a bit distracted. Finally he asked my wife: “Are you a probation worker?” She replied that she was. My wife works for Batshaw Centres’ court services. “I know you. Maybe you don’t remember me. I am... You were my worker when I was...” The gap in time was about 10 years. The conversation about his life went on. It turns out the young man is now a student at Concordia, heading into his last year. We asked if he knew about the scholarship program, he said he didn’t. We explained how it works and that he is eligible. He was very interested and took all the information we scribbled onto a piece of paper so he could get an application.

You never know how paths will cross in the future. There are very few agency foundations with as big a scholarship program as that of Batshaw Centres’ Foundation. All summer when I looked at the flowers I thought about how pleased and proud I am to be part of another kind of growing supported by the Foundation.

