

# BYFC Alumni Newsletter

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## *A message from Judy Martin*

I am thrilled to share what many of you already know: I have been named to the CIUSSS - ODIM Board of Directors by Dr. Barrette, and am designated with the label 'expertise in youth protection'.



Getting there was half the fun!

Last February, we were asked to apply online, and were given an opportunity to submit letters of support. Our daughter thought that the 13 letters I sent, from former colleagues I met through my volunteer activities in the social services and education portfolios to my current caregivers in the health sector, were a bit excessive, but it worked and I received my letter from Dr. Barrette on October 2, 2015 and am nominated for a three-year term.

At our first Board 'meet and greet' I was pleasantly surprised by the number of colleagues who have expertise in the social service sector and particularly happy when Alain Berinstain came to introduce himself; Alain is representing the 'users' and is a Batshaw foster parent,

which thrilled me as I felt he too would have a better understanding of our world than most. Time will tell how open everyone is to learning about the youth protection world, but I am hopeful.

We had our Board orientation recently, spending a full day at the Douglas site. As I walked around the beautiful grounds, I kept thinking that if we had known this reform was coming, maybe we'd have pushed a little harder against the Verdun citizens and secured this beautiful site. I mentioned our fight to Lynne McVey, who shared how difficult the neighbours continue to be for the Douglas facility. The orientation was animated by Roger Paquette representing the 'public institution' perspective and Sylvie Mercier representing the 'private sector' perspective of governance expertise. They did an excellent job throughout the day. I can't say I learned anything new, but it did validate the excellent job the Batshaw Board of Directors, which I have been privileged to sit on over the years, have done. And it made me very proud!

I have accompanied the new management team on two tours of Batshaw over the past weeks; to date, they have visited Tupper, 5 and 6 Weredale and Prevost campus, added to their visit at Dorval in the spring. They are doing their best to introduce themselves to staff and have for the most part impressed me with their openness. Honestly, it's got to be a little tough for them as staff enthusiastically embrace me, which has been heartwarming for me; it has given them an idea of how close our family was, how respectful we all were of each other and that we were and will continue to be 'family'. I have encouraged all who will listen to continue that respect; some have said it's more difficult in a larger organization, I answer that it isn't, it just takes more effort.

**“I have encouraged all who will listen to  
continue that respect...”**

Our first public board meeting is on December 16th at 7am! The meetings are public and will be held at the Lakeshore General Hospital. They will run to 10am. It remains to be seen how enthusiastic the public will be with this time frame, but apparently, it suited the majority of the Board members. If you're not busy and in the area, come on by, it will be great to see you!!

I have been visiting often with Manny Batshaw to keep him up to date on the 'new regime'. Unfortunately, he is aging quite rapidly, his attention span is much more limited, but he always has a big smile when he sees me, and always asks 'have you been to Batshaw?' Next week, I am taking some of the youth from Teen Haven who were previously in Batshaw facilities to tea; when I told them this summer that there really was a 'Mr. Batshaw', that he had turned 100 this year, they asked if they could meet him, which I am excited for them to do! One of the young girls is interested in volunteering with seniors, so will meet the management that day to interview for a position.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank all of you for the support you have given me over the years and continue to do. As I have said many times, it is a privilege I don't take likely, it has enriched my life! Please feel free to contact me directly if there's anything that concerns you about the care our families are receiving; sometimes you are closer to the day to day activity than I'm now allowed to be!

Happy holidays to everyone!

XOXOX

*Judy*

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## Cooking with Sandhya

### CABBAGE WITH GREEN BEANS

4 cups finely shredded cabbage  
 2 cups chopped green beans - steam them in the microwave for 5 minutes.  
 ½ cup grated fresh coconut or ¼ cup dry  
 10 curry leaves  
 ¼ bunch fresh coriander leaves, chopped , stems and all.  
 1 tsp. Mustard seeds (black ones from the Indian store)  
 1 tsp. Cumin seeds  
 1 or 2 green chilies  
 ¼ tsp. Turmeric (optional)  
 salt

Heat about 6 tablespoons of oil over high heat. When almost smoking, add the cumin seeds, let them finish spluttering, then add the mustard seeds and put lid on till the spluttering stops, then quickly add the curry leaves, the jalapeño and turmeric powder. Stir rapidly and add the green beans and coconut. Add about ¼ cup of water, turn heat down to medium and let it cook for about 5 - 10 minutes or until water evaporates. Then add the salt, the cabbage, the coriander leaves and rapidly stir fry till cabbage is partially cooked but still crunchy. Serve with pita bread, or any other similar type of bread.

### CHOU AVEC HARICOTS VERTS

4 tasses de chou râpé finement  
 2 tasses d'haricots verts hachés - faire cuire au micro-ondes avec un peu d'eau pendant 5 minutes.  
 Noix de coco fraîche ½ tasse râpé ou ¼ tasse sec  
 10 feuilles de curry  
 ¼ botte de feuilles de coriandre fraîche (cilantro), hachée, les tiges et tous.  
 1 cuillère à thé de graines de moutarde (les noirs de l'épicerie indienne)  
 1 cuillère à thé de graines de cumin  
 1 ou 2 piments jalapeño verts  
 ¼ cuillère à thé de curcuma (facultatif)  
 du sel

Chauffer environ 6 cuillères à soupe d'huile à feu vif. Lorsque que cela commence à fumer, ajouter les graines de cumin, laissez-les terminer de crépiter puis ajouter les graines de moutarde et mettre le couvercle jusqu'à ce que le crépitement arrête, puis ajouter rapidement les feuilles de curry, le piment jalapeno et le curcuma en poudre. Remuer rapidement et ajouter les haricots verts et noix de coco. Ajouter environ ¼ de tasse d'eau, mettez le feu à moyen et laisser cuire pendant environ 5 - 10 minutes ou jusqu'à évaporation de l'eau. Ensuite, ajouter le sel, le chou, les feuilles de coriandre et rapidement sautés jusqu'à ce que le chou soit partiellement cuits mais encore croquant. Servir avec du pain pita, ou tout autre type de pain similaire.

Submitted by [Sandhya Karnick](#)

## Book Review - *All We Had* by Annie Weatherwax

When I hear about a “coming-of-age” novel, my eyes tend to cloud over, that stage of my life ended long ago! But I recently read a charming and very readable book called *All We Had* with a teen-age narrator and I didn’t mind the coming-of-age perspective in the least.

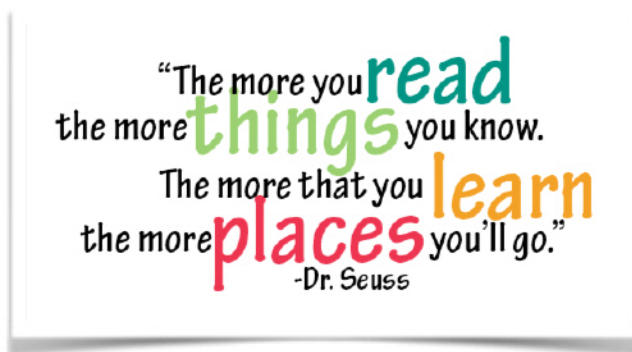
The story revolves around Ruth, the narrator, and her mother, Rita, and their difficult, funny, and sometimes heartbreaking life. Rita, a single mother, has never had it easy and finds herself in her late 20’s with a precocious daughter and absolutely no means of support. Rita has two things going for her - a car and her beauty which she can use on men to her advantage. In fact, the novel begins with Rita and Ruth living with one of the loser men Rita manages to seduce into sharing with them his shelter and meager earnings. But, as we learn from Ruth, finally the usual pattern develops and Rita tires of being tied down so she and Ruth climb in the car and hit the road (after taking whatever they can from the out-of-luck boyfriend).

Without giving away too much of the plot, I will just say that their life takes a turn under unusual circumstances and what follows from there makes for compelling reading and introduces us to many interesting characters and complicated situations.

This is the first book from Annie Weatherwax, but I’m sure we’ll be hearing more from her. She has created a complex character in Ruth who can be at times so funny and cynical and yet still so touching. And her single mother - struggling to raise a child in poverty - illustrates so well the sometimes heartbreaking choices that must be made by a mother intent on giving the best to her daughter.

I hope you enjoy this book as much as I did.

*Barbara Kemp*





Social worker visits family, c.1910.

## The Bashaw History Conservation Project

The Batshaw Centres History Conservation Project was undertaken initially under the leadership of Lesley Hill, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres' last Executive Director. As the 2015 reform of Health and Social Services approached Lesley Hill and Judy Martin, last President of the BYFC Board of directors, as well as other staff and alumni of the agency, became concerned about the fate of historical materials held by the establishment.

Following the first meeting of interested parties in mid -February, Ms. Hill, in a mandate document, wrote

“Over the years, material has been collected from our different founding institutions that depict the evolution of social services within the English-speaking community of Quebec. Both documents and photographs, as well as miscellaneous items depicting life of the youths and children in our facilities is available, but has not been organized in a “fonds” so as to be preserved for future generations.

Among the goals to be achieved by the Batshaw Centres History Conservation Project were:

“Complete an inventory of the historical material that we presently have, so as to preserve the rich history of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and its founding organizations;

Determine the links to be made to the broader history of social services for the English-speaking population of Quebec;

Analyze this inventory and decide what should be displayed;

Make recommendations around how material should be made available and to what public.” (Lesley Hill, February 26, 2015)

So began the activities of a group of volunteers comprised of Batshaw Alumni and staff and a volunteer archivist, Louise Hotte. Representatives and experts from the academic community have also joined the group.

The first goal, to complete an inventory of materials, has been achieved although it is thought that there are likely more materials “out there” held by staff or former actors in the founding agencies. Nevertheless, the inventory confirmed the historical significance of much of the material that is currently held in our “archives”.

The Project’s mandate has evolved to focus on three goals: safe preservation, accessibility and commemoration of the material.

Project members will be reaching out to the appropriate CIUSSS-ODIM directors, the CIUSSS is now the legal “owner” of the archives, so that we can have their approbation to work towards achieving our goals. A primary concern is finding a suitable repository for the archives.

One of the results of our meetings and discussions is the development of a website by Batshaw Alumni, Ron Zinn. Ron has volunteered his time to work on the website which focuses on the history of Batshaw, its founding agencies and also, the history of social services to the English-speaking population of Montreal. The Batshaw Alumni Association has agreed to provide funding for the website for the next 3 years.

The co-chairs of the Project, Leigh Johnston and Louise Jessop, wish to thank the members of the project for the time they have given to this worthwhile endeavour. Members are: Merv Atta-Segal, Doug Brice, Dave Brown, Frank Campinile, Vaughan Dowie, Margaret Douek, Thérèse Gauthier, Janice Harvey, Louise Hotte, Judy Martin, Kim Parker, Dave Potter, Lorraine O’Donnell, Michael Udy and Ron Zinn.

Submitted by [Louise Jessop](#)



## President's report 2015

The eighth Annual General Meeting of the Batshaw Alumni Association (BAA) was held on Oct 6, 2015. The speaker was Dr. Katherine Moxness, *Directrice du Programme jeunesse Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal*. Dr. Moxness believes the reorganization will provide a more integrated, multi disciplinary service and better continuity for clients.

Since my last report at the General Assembly on Oct 7, 2014 the following events have taken place;

The executive met on five occasions over the past year. We continued to work at organizing the activities for our members: increasing membership, which now stands at 250, 101 more than the previous year, produced the newsletter, organizing this Annual General Meeting and continuing to keep members informed of BAA and Batshaw news through email.

Again this year a new member of the executive, Mathew Skeleton, resigned for personal reasons. We appreciated his wanting to serve on the Executive and wish him well. Robin Bondaroff agreed to join the executive and proved to be a valuable member. Robin Bondaroff and two other members, Rose Rheault and Tony Maciocia, were elected at the Annual General Meeting bringing the executive to nine members. In order to add Rose Rheault and Tony Maciocia to the executive our constitution was amended.

The Social Committee planned two more Social Lunches which were well attended. The eleventh Social Lunch took place on October 22, 2015 at a new venue, 'Shanghai Grill', on St Catherine west. Social Lunch 12 will take place in the Spring of 2016. Hope to see you there.

Financially we had a quiet year. Our current bank balance is \$ 1,143.89.

This year's most pressing issue was Bill 10 and its implementation. One of our responses to this bill was to send a letter to the Montreal papers objecting to Bill 10. The effect of the implementation meant that Batshaw Youth and Family Centres was no longer a separate agency. Your executive discussed the issue of membership and the continued existence of the BAA, as no more alumni would be coming from BYFC. We decided to send an email to all staff working for BYFC before the implementation of Bill 10 inviting them to join the BAA. This resulted in 101 new members and encouraged the executive to continue the BAA.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the executive; Louise Jessop, Barbara Kemp, Sandhya Karnack, Julia Paré, Carol Kimmis and Robin Bondaroff for their continuing hard work and their commitment to the BAA. I also want to welcome Rose Rheault and Tony Maciocia to the executive and know they will find this a interesting and rewarding



experience. I want to recognize the members of the BAA without whom none of what we did would have succeeded or have been necessary. On behalf of the Association I wish to thank Batshaw for their continued support in providing us an office, a place to meet and the means to communicate with the members of the Association.

I wish you all a healthy and fulfilling year.

Zalman Bitensky  
President, Batshaw Alumni Association

## Softball, eligibility, discretion. It takes a lot to field a softball team.

By *Michael Udy*



I was asked to write this as part of the global effort to conserve some of the history of Batshaw. I spent a lot of time playing softball in the 70s, 80s and 90s, so I know part of the story.

I guess it is part of being Anglo in Quebec to be caught up in issues of eligibility. I started playing organized softball in a league composed of teams that represented Dawson College faculty staff. We played on McGill's lower campus, over by the McLennan library. We weren't supposed to play there, and periodically got kicked out by security. Later we played up on the reservoir below Pine Avenue. It was a challenge to run down fly balls and not collide with the large metal vents that stick up out of the grass. I played for the English department. No, I never taught at Dawson, in any department. I was a 'ringer', a player you bring in to get an advantage over your opponents. Though there were players on the team who did teach English at Dawson, I was recruited by someone from the History department. History didn't have a team, so he played with his pals from the English Department, and so did I.

That team had a couple of illustrious members: a guy called Chaim who also played in the McGarrigle sisters' band, and another guy called Andrew who played for the Stephen Barry Blues band. In fact he still does. I went to a show last year and had a chance to reminisce a bit about the good old days.

Around the same time I got recruited to the Ville Marie team by Fred Luker, I was working at St Pat's. The Ville Marie team played in a league with teams from other CSSs. To make me eligible John Walker, the Executive Director of Ville Marie, signed a letter making me a Ville Marie employee to be paid one dollar a year. I wasn't the only one. We had about five or six players, mostly husbands of Ville Marie staff, who had these dollar-a-year letters. Without them we would not have had enough players to field a team. So starting with Dawson and continuing on with

Ville Marie, playing while ineligible seemed to just go with the game. And who cared? It was only softball.

At one point, the Ville Marie team also played in a hospital league with teams from the Children's, the Douglas, the Jewish. I wasn't eligible for that league either. That was the roughest league I ever played in, and I don't think anyone there cared about such fine points such as eligibility. Banging into people rounding third was more their style.

At around this time guys at St Pats formed a team, the Pirates. It felt strange to play legitimately. Names you might recognize from that team are Terry Peters, Nick Paré, Bob Taylor. For one summer I played for all three teams which helped improve my play a lot. The Pirates played in a Côte-des-Neiges league at Kent Park. There were several other teams, but there was one that dominated all the others: the evil Comets. The Pirates' goal was to knock off those arrogant bastards, and after about three years we did it. I should say, they did it. That year I was away for the playoffs, but very pleased to hear the news when I got back.

The Pirates didn't last long, but while still working at St Pats, I played for the Ville Marie team for about 17 years, all of it while ineligible, except for one summer, while I was a student at McGill and hired by Ville Marie as a temp. Legitimacy was fleeting. I was the coach for about 10 of those years. As coach I was the team's representative to the league committee, composed mainly of players who worked for Montréal-Métropolitain. At one point the committee elected me as president of the league for a two-year term. Everything was ticking along until about two years after my term as president I was summoned to meet the new league president. He told me about rumors circulating that our team had ineligible players. The jig was up. I told him the team had never played without ineligible players, why that was, and the dollar-a-year letters. The new league executive was not happy. All of us who were ineligible were suspended for the rest of the year. All the games we won with ineligible players, which was all of them, were deemed to be losses. On top of that, at the end of every summer all the teams in our league went to the annual provincial tournament of the Association of CSSs. Our colleagues at CSMM realized we had always had ineligible players in the tournament too. So they informed the organizers, and all our ineligible players were banned from the tournament for that year. We weren't happy about this turn of events, but the facts were the facts. I probably should not have felt this way, but I was secretly proud that I had been president of the league while being ineligible.

One positive note was that our colleagues accepted that we did this to field a team, not to win, since they had seen we were never able to do that. So the next year the ineligible players were allowed back. They were grandfathered in, but no new ones were allowed. Once we were back in, we were on a mission. We went to the finals two years in a row, and won both times. From doormats to champions. It was the stuff of dreams. There were many players on the Ville Marie team over the years. I can't make a complete list, so apologies in advance to those I don't mention. In addition to Fred Luker there was Bruce Tratt, Vaughan Dowie, Jim Carter, Eugene

Tremblay, Al Eisenring, Zalman Bitensky, Steve Wohl, Gary Hawkins, Dino Ciarma, Nelson Santos, Claude Lamoureux, Wayne Quartz, Don Mounsey, Harley Schwartz and many others.

Around the time Batshaw was formed I stopped playing, partly because I was pretty busy, but also because I could see my eye-hand coordination was dropping off and I couldn't play at the same level. Nonetheless, for several years I went to the provincial tournament and played on the non-competitive mixed teams. It was fun to play even if it was only once a year. To my knowledge, the Ville Marie men's team became the Batshaw men's team and played on for a while, though I don't know how long. I would have felt out of place on that team, being so eligible and all.

I knew of other teams that played in the Batshaw orbit. First, there was the Ville Marie women's' team which played first against CSSMM teams, and then for many years in an NDG league, and at the provincial tournaments. Sue Adams, Beverly Robinson, Heather MacIntosh and many others played for that team. At the beginning my wife played for that team, which is how I met her.

Youth Horizons had a team. Occasionally the Ville Marie team played against them. I didn't know much about that team.

Shawbridge also had a men's team that played in Morin Heights. I heard a lot about that team, but none of it concerning how they actually played. Eventually some of those players such as Ron Golfman, Scott Nicholls, Lavine McIntyre and Dave Brown played in the once a year tournaments.

You may have been hoping I would write a bit about what went on in the social life around these teams, especially at the tournaments. A couple of stories are: in Quebec City, around midnight, I pulled a player out of the motel pool. He had been pushed in by another player but was in no condition to be swimming. I grabbed him on his third time going down, all the while yelling he couldn't swim. The player who pushed him in thought he was joking. Scary! On another occasion, in Hull, players got access to the room of a player who is still a manager at Batshaw and stole all his wife's underwear. They were married just a few months before. I'm sure she was impressed with his acquaintances. Then there was the year Ron Golfman was in charge of submitting the team lineup to the umpire. There was a PA system, and when it was my turn to hit I heard: "...le prochain frappeur...Buck Naked!" The next year he gave me a shirt with the name Buck on the back, which I still have. So thoughtful. But I have to stop here. What happens on the field and at the tournament, stays on the field and at the tournament. Believe me, this will make a lot of people breathe much easier. Everything you think might have happened did, and then some. It was the best of times.