

# Batshaw Alumni Association Newsletter



Volume 10, Issue 1

November 2019

## The Batshaw History Conservation Project

by Ronald Zinn

The Batshaw History Conservation Project was created four years ago in an effort to preserve the history of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and its preceding establishments that have served the English-speaking population of Montreal for more than 200 years.

Sponsored by the Batshaw Alumni Association and Judy Martin, the website was launched three years ago and now it has more than 60 pages of content dedicated to over 200 years of English Social Services in Quebec. Content on the website includes pages for each organization that we have information or photos for, photo pages for some organizations: archived publications, newsletters and awards, and much more. There's even a video from 1922 of the raising of the Chapel bell at The Boys Farm and Training School.

This website is a work in progress and will most likely never be complete. We are adding material and information all the time and we welcome your input, feedback and anything else that you can contribute that will add to our archive.

So far, the website has material (history, photos and/or artifacts) from many organizations, including Batshaw Youth and Family Centres (1993), The Boys Home of Montreal (1870), The Children's Aid Society (1945), The Female Benevolent Society (1815), The Girl's Cottage School (1911), Jewish Family Services, The John Howard Society of Quebec (1988), The St-Partrick Orphans' Asylum (1845), Mount St-Patrick Youth Centre (1982), The Protestant Orphans' Asylum (1822), Red Feather of Montreal (1922), The Boy's Farm and Training School (1907), Shawbridge Youth Centre, Summerhill Homes (1947), Ville Marie Social Service Centre (1973), Weredale House (1930), Youth Horizons (1977) and Camp Weredale. Some of the above pages are either not complete or we are looking for more information and photos. We invite your input in any way, including updates, corrections, photos and in some cases the complete history of some of these organizations.



We have nothing or almost nothing and are seeking the history, information, logos or photos from the following institutions: Allancroft, Catholic Family and Community Services, Catholic Welfare Bureau (1930), The Children's Service Centre (1951), Family Service Association, Family Welfare Association of Montreal (1931), The Federation of Catholic Charities (1932), Foster Home Recruitment Center (1965), Lakeshore Community Centre (1956), The Montreal Children's Bureau (1919), Montreal Ladies Benevolent Society (1832), Protestant Infant Home of Montreal (1870). We invite you to contact the webmaster with anything you can contribute.

Want to get involved? We are always looking for people to do research and write pages on various institutions that are part of this website. Contact Ronald Zinn at [ronaldzinn@hotmail.com](mailto:ronaldzinn@hotmail.com) for more information on how to get involved.

Check out the website at [batshawcentreshistory.ca](http://batshawcentreshistory.ca) and you will be amazed to see what we have done so far. We welcome your comments, ideas, material and photos to help build and improve the website. To leave a comment or to submit your ideas, text or documents, use the contact form on the website To submit photos, scanned documents or just to let us know how we're doing, contact Ronald Zinn at [ronaldzinn@hotmail.com](mailto:ronaldzinn@hotmail.com).



## Batshaw Alumni Takes Over Camp Weredale!

By Elizabeth Pusztai

The 2019 camp season was a sort of "Back to the Future" experience. Johanne Kralka as Director of Program, Danny Hoelscher as Director of Staff and Campers, Linda Pelletier as Registrar/Office manager and Gary Grace as Full Time, On Site Volunteer all accepted to take a break from retirement and join forces to reset the Camp Weredale structure and program. With our respective backgrounds as well as our experience of having worked at the camp in the 80's, we did it all! The summer was a success with many happy campers. Next year promises to be truly spectacular! Perhaps you will consider joining us.



## Alumni Volunteer Project

By Johanne Kralka

This year, after a 35 year hiatus, I returned to Camp Weredale as a program director. As the summer unfolded I came to appreciate the many areas of camp in dire need of attention. We were fortunate to have some Old Boys and ex colleagues lend a hand but our needs still outstrip our manpower. After some reflection I realized that we have a wealth of skills, experience and goodwill amongst our retirees. We are very much in need of support around the year to year maintenance and upkeep of the camp (painting, repairs, cleaning). For those interested in being involved first hand with our campers, we could use volunteers to help with fishing, boating, crafts, sports and a multitude of other activities offered each day. No doubt our young, enthusiastic counsellors could also benefit from the opportunity to learn from people with years of experience providing support to our kids. Beyond the concrete gains of these exchanges, the opportunity for greater multi generational interactions would be invaluable.



Next spring we will provide more details around how you can become involved in volunteering at Camp Weredale. Whether for a short-term project or as a regular contributor, all support would be most appreciated. In return we offer a beautiful setting, camaraderie and the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts go directly towards ensuring a wonderful summer for our kids. Don't hesitate to drop us a line at [campweredale@hotmail.com](mailto:campweredale@hotmail.com) with any ideas, suggestions or questions.

### ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI

- if you know any ex employees of Batshaw who would like to become members of the alumni (it's free!), please invite them to contact [batshaw\\_alumni@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:batshaw_alumni@ssss.gouv.qc.ca). They will automatically become members and will get email notices from the association.
- take note that an Alumni fundraiser will be held at Weredale on June 19th 2020. More information will be available closer to that date.
- if you would like to contribute to the Newsletter please contact it's editor *Julia Paré* [juliapare@hotmail.com](mailto:juliapare@hotmail.com)

## A letter to the Commission Spéciale sur la Protection de la Jeunesse from the Coalition of Batshaw Alumni, CARE Jeunesse and the Quebec Association of Educators

*by Julia Paré*

As you may remember from previous newsletters, this Coalition was formed in response to Bill 10 and the subsequent creation of the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'île . It's goal was to alert the Board and management of the CIUSSS to the rapidly declining services to clients and the poor working conditions for staff at Batshaw Youth and Family Centers . These developments were seen as the direct result of the merger.

Over the last 2 years the coalition has communicated with the CIUSSS Board and met with the Directors on three occasions to give them feedback from clients and staff about the ongoing crisis in the youth center. Despite the good intentions of management and their willingness to hear from us, the conditions for clients and staff continued to deteriorate over this time.

In September of this year when we learned of the Commission Spéciale sur la Protection de la Jeunesse , which had been formed to look into the youth centers in the province after the death of a child under the care of youth protection, the Coalition decided to address our concerns to the Commission.

Below you will find the English version of the letter that was sent to the Commission. The Commission has begun its investigation, CARE Jeunesse has been invited to speak with them last week and the Coalition is awaiting a date to do the same.

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Mme Régine Laurent  
Chair  
La commission spéciale sur la protection de la jeunesse

September 6, 2019

Dear Mme Laurent,

The undersigned Coalition was formed in 2017 in response to Bill 10 and the creation of the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'île . The negative impact that the merger caused had an almost immediate effect on clients and staff of Batshaw Youth and Family Centers. (Les Centres de la Jeunesse et de la Familles Batshaw)

The Batshaw Alumni Association promotes activities to support retirees, staff and clients of Batshaw. CARE Jeunesse is a non profit organization comprised of former youth in care which provides support and advocacy for youth leaving care from youth protection services. The Quebec Association of Educators provides a forum for practitioners to discuss services to youth and families, to exchange information

and to promote the development of standards in the field of youth care.

In June of 2017 this Coalition presented an open letter to the Board of the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'île. The letter alerted the Board to an erosion of programs, a decline in the quality of services to youth and families and a deterioration in staff morale at the center. It noted that these developments were seen as directly related to the impact of the merger and in no way reflected on the management of the center. It asked if the Board was aware of the developing crisis in Youth Centers and if so, what steps were being taken to rectify the situation. (See attached).

We were directed to discuss our concerns with the Directors at Batshaw. We have had three meetings with the Directors since that time during which they have been open to hearing our concerns and forthcoming about initiatives to address some of the most pressing issues; none of which have been able to correct the fundamental problems related to the current state of affairs in the protection of children and the welfare of staff.

In October 2018 we sent a letter to Mr Richard Legault, the President of the Board of the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'île with copies to the Directors of the Youth Center, the CEO of the CIUSSS and the Chair of the Board's Vigilance Committee for Quality and Services.

This letter reported on our memberships' feedback about a further and serious decline in services to clients and a devastating impact on staff. The letter remarked on the dangerously long waiting list and the impossibility to adequately and safely serve children at risk with the center's client/staffing ratios and the manager/staff ratios. On behalf of the clients and staff at Batshaw the Coalition asked if the Board was aware of the crisis in Youth Protection Services and the potential for tragic outcomes unless there was meaningful and sustained change. (see attached). We were referred back to the Directors at Batshaw who met with us for the third time and highlighted their planned initiatives to address problems.

We have concluded that the ongoing crises cannot be solved at the youth center level despite the best efforts of management. The root of the problems lies in the 2015 merger with the CIUSSS. With little autonomy to prioritize its needs, develop its programs and forge links with the community, the center's ability to carry out its mission to protect children has been significantly diminished. Its identity as a specialized, community social service organization has been eroded by and overshadowed by the much larger and more vocal demands of the health sector of the CIUSSS. It is restricted from spontaneously responding to the crises and risks its client face on a daily basis. Its staff has lost a focused philosophy and a working culture that supported it.

Prior to the 2015 merger Batshaw, of course, faced incidents of crisis and times of staff dissatisfaction, however the management and board were able to respond in a timely and informed manner largely due to their knowledge of and relationships in the day to day workings of the center. Batshaw's long history of serving the community and its pre merger success in retaining staff, many for their entire careers, says a lot about its past stability, pride and sense of community, all of which are vital to a healthy organization.

With an autonomous board and control of a sustainable budget, we believe that the center would have a much better chance to re establish its foundation and rebuild its programs and services as

well as its community relations .Anything less would be band aid solutions, leaving the center vulnerable to more tragic outcomes, similar to the ones we have increasingly witnessed since 2015. We sincerely hope that your commission will look at the impact and after effects of Bill 10 in relation to youth centers and recognize the merger as the crux in the breakdown of services to children and families at risk. We would be willing to address these concerns in person at your commission .

Yours truly,

Batshaw Alumni Association, Julia Paré and Robin Bondaroff

(juliapare@hotmail.com) (rbondaroff@sympatico.ca)

CARE Jeunesse, Amanda Keller

(a.lynn.keller@gmail.com)

Quebec Association of Educators, Tony Maciocia

(tonymaciocia@gmail.com)

CC: Mr Richard Legault Président of the Board, CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'île

Ms Lynne McVey, President and CEO ,CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'île

Ms. Katherine Moxness , Director of Youth Programs CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'île

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**October 22 - October 24, 2020**

Artist Exhibit to benefit

Youth in care

Stay tuned for more info!

## A Story for my Canvas of Life

by Linda Saks

In early March, 1992, I left Montréal for Calcutta, India. Little did I know that my life would be changed forever by that week long trip. At that time, I was married with three young children. Making the decision to go was not difficult and with the backing of my family, I traveled by myself to India, to meet a very young child who was to become the daughter of a lovely couple living in Trois Rivieres, Quebec. The details of how I was given the opportunity to travel half way around the world and to return with a 7 month old child are not as interesting as what transpired after I returned and in the subsequent years. I packed two very large suitcases filled with baby clothes, diapers, shampoos, lotions and potions; bottles, toys and more. All this to be left at the orphanage to be used by the children living there.

But just to give you a glimpse into those few days in Calcutta, I will tell you that I visited the orphanage every day. I wanted my little darling named Deepika to get to know me. It was an intense set of preplacement visits that I hoped would make her transition from the orphanage to me and on to her forever family a little bit easier. After eight days, we boarded the plane for home. Deepika was a gem! After a 22 hour flight, we arrived to a overwhelming welcome from her new extended family!

A few months later, I attended her baptism in Trois Rivieres. Beautiful and smiling, adored by everyone, Marie-Pierre had become an integral member of her family. Over the first few years, I received many letters, Christmas cards and photographs. I stopped hearing from the family but as we all know, life often gets in the way of life.

Fast forward to this past summer. Although Marie-Pierre and I had reconnected via Facebook several years ago, we never actually met. She had shared with me some news... yes her adoption had been wonderful, yes her family was great; yes life had had its ups and downs but we never got the chance or should I say we never made the effort to actually meet. This time it was different. Marie-Pierre wanted to meet me; to see me; to talk ! I guess we were both ready.

We met one beautiful sunny afternoon and spent several hours, chatting, sharing and crying a little bit too!

Marie-Pierre is a nurse. She helps people every day. She's good at what she does and she knows it. I believe her to be a strong, loving and compassionate soul.

I started this article by saying that my life would be changed forever. You see Marie-Pierre and I are forever connected by our shared experience. We were thrown together by happenstance, fate, whatever you want to call it. It is said that if you save one life, it's as if you save a whole world....we saved each other.



Linda Saks

Retired social worker

Adoption services

Batshaw

## Our Adventures in South Africa- Spring 2019

*by Robin Bondaroff*

*This* year, my husband and I took a once-in-a-lifetime trip to South Africa, with a tour company out of New York. We knew many people who have done this particular trip, and everyone had highly recommended it. They were not wrong.

Our tour began in Cape Town where we met up with our group of fellow travelers and our amazing guide, Ron. We were very lucky to have Ron as our guide, as he has been doing this for over 50 years, and is a walking encyclopedia on every subject imaginable. We learned so much from him on the history, geography, culture, religions, etc of this spectacular country. I cannot review all that we saw and did on this trip, as there was so much, but I will give you some of the highlights.



We were lucky enough to take the cable car up to the top of Table Mountain, where we were awed by the magnificent views. The cable car does not function if it is too windy, and in fact, we had to return a second time to successfully ascend.

One of the highlights I was so looking forward to was visiting Cape of Good Hope, the southern-most point of the country and where we got to see hundreds of the cutest penguins imaginable. We also got to put our feet in the Indian Ocean.

Cape Town is a beautiful city with much to see and experience, and great restaurants. We also visited a winery nearby and enjoyed wine tastings which were paired with a variety of chocolates. What could be better!

Next we moved on to Hluhluwe Game Reserve in Zululand, where we stayed next to a cheetah reserve, and got to play with the cheetahs. We also visited a Cultural Village where we learned about the Zulu people, and got to meet and interact with them.

From there we traveled to Swaziland and Kruger National Park, where we experienced a couple of safari rides and saw so many animals, very close up. One of our first encounters was with a lion, who was chasing some wart hogs across the road, right in front of us. Luckily for the wart hogs, the lion noticed us, and chose to stop and stare at us instead of continuing his chase. Our sightings included, elephants, giraffes, rhinos,

hippos, and thousands of impalas who move like ballet dancers.

We moved on to Stanton, a suburb of Johannesburg, where we saw the city from our bus, as it considered a very dangerous city to walk in. We visited Nelson Mandela's home, and learned about his life and all he did to eradicate apartheid. We also spent time at the Apartheid Museum, which was very educational. We then went on to Pretoria, and visited the jail where Mandela was held while awaiting his trial, and saw his writing on the walls of the cell.

We had chosen to extend our tour, along with several others, to Victoria Falls. This was also well worth it. We flew to Zimbabwe, and spent 4 days in that part of Africa. We learned about David Livingstone and spent a morning at the Falls. They are spectacular, nothing like our Niagara Falls. It was very hot when we were there, and we enjoyed the spray from the falls as we walked along the paths, taking in all the amazing views. While there, we got to visit a lion reserve. We met a family of 4 lions, all half siblings, who had been abandoned at birth, and raised on the reserve. We spent a couple of hours, playing with them, close up, and taking lots of photos, ofcourse.

We then crossed into Botswana, which was an interesting border-crossing experience, and spent a day at Chobe National Park. We spent the morning on a boat, viewing various animals crossing water to get to food, and then a land safari in the afternoon. Watching how giraffes must bend their legs almost like an arabesque, so they can reach a water hole, in mesmerizing.

Our last morning, before leaving for home, we got up at 5am, to spend a couple of hours at an elephant reserve. We were able to walk with them, pet them, and actually feed them. They are very intelligent, and actually recognize when their names are called. There was a baby elephant we could not touch, and it was most interesting to see how protective the mother was of her baby.

This was a memorable trip for us. Having learned about South Africa in school, I was interested to visit and learn more about the country, in the present day. I was pleasantly surprised at how much I



enjoyed seeing all the animals, and experiencing some of them up close and personal.

In addition, I must add, the hotels were all great, and the food was amazing. We did not have a bad meal anywhere, and the wines are delicious and very inexpensive.

## From Where I sit

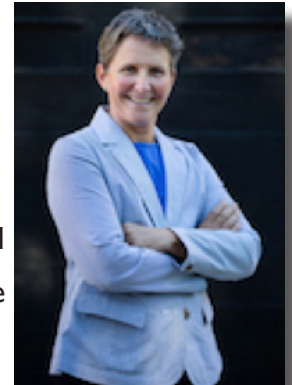
*by Judy Martin*

*I* feels like another year has come and gone, time to put my thoughts into words for you. It is always a privilege to be asked, thank you for that.

As most know, I have the youth protection seat on the CIUSSS-ODIM Board of Directors and am also the President of the Quality and Vigilance committee. Both are opportunities for me to keep a close eye on the services our kids are getting and advocate for them from a distance, as I know some of you do. But I am not alone. We have a number of board members who join me in paying close attention.

There's no doubt that the past four years presented enormous challenges - staffing shortage, cuts in service top the list, often I've expressed the lack of common sense. Since April, the government's eyes have been opened and the Commission Special sur les Droits des Enfants et la Protection was formed and it started today, October 22nd. And what a start! Six very brave kids shared their stories, challenges they faced - I bet the commissioners went to the back room very affected by the first morning. One of the happiest appointments - Lesley Hill is a member of the commission, and I know will look out for all kids and staff as she has from the day she joined Batshaw. You can find the schedule of hearings here, I'd encourage you to watch live when your schedule permits: <https://www.csdepj.gouv.qc.ca/informations-generales/calendrier-des-audiences/>

There's no doubt that Minister Carmant and Minister McCann's eyes have been opened to the reality faced by youth protection workers over the past four years, and major investments were made over the summer. It needs to continue and we'll be vigilant in supporting the executive team in whatever way we can, making sure that not only the kids get what they deserve but that our staff are looked after to.



## What's new with Care Jeunesse

*by Varda R. Mann-Feder*

Care Jeunesse has had an active start to 2019.....starting off with our fantastic holiday party late last year. We had 50 attendees from care and wonderful gifts provided by Batshaw Alumni Volunteers and the Foundation of the Centre Jeunesse de Montreal. Early in 2019, former Batshaw professional Hughette Dube hosted a tax clinic for our members, and demonstrated skill, patience and compassion in her approach to helping young people with their taxes. Our members participated in an important consultation to INESS on the topic of psychological evaluations last spring, and we have continued to work with the Quebec Association of Educators and the Batshaw Alumni in a coalition that seeks to give input to improve local services to young people and families. We had a successful luggage drive at Temple Emmanuel in Westmount in May, and were able to distribute brand new luggage at both the English and French youth centres in Montreal, as well as in Sept Iles. This summer, we attended the Youth Conference at Prevost Campus, where we recruited members and spoke to young people about leaving care. Last but not least, with the support of David Birnbaum, MNA for D'Arcy McGee, we were able to award a \$2000 scholarship to a youth from care who will be attending CEGEP in St. Jerome this fall. Our current projects include: our holiday party for 2019, a new process for making gift cards available to youth in need, and continued work on applying for charitable status. We will also be awarding another scholarship, and are working with Advancement at Concordia University on a possible scholarship program there. We are taking up several opportunities to apply for funding as well, and our youth members will be testifying at the Commission sur la Protection de la Jeunesse on October 23. We want to acknowledge the important contribution of the many volunteers from the Batshaw Alumni Association who continue to make our work possible, and look forward to hearing from anyone who has the time and interest to work with us!



## Book Review - A Gentleman in Moscow

by Amor Towles

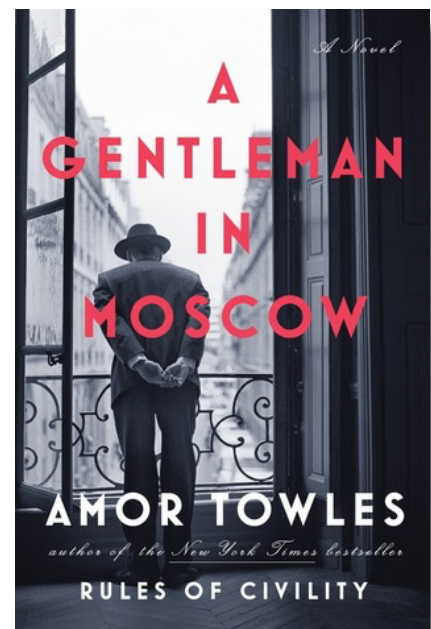
*This* novel was published several years ago and many of you may have already read it (it's a popular book club choice), but for those who somehow missed this delightful book, you have a great treat ahead of you.

The story, which spans several decades, is set in Russia and revolves around a charming character named Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov who has been sentenced by the Bolsheviks to house arrest in a cramped space at the top of a luxurious Moscow hotel called the Metropol – which, by the way is still in existence. His crime? Writing a poem that was seen as treasonous.

What could have been a depressing story taking place in a very limited setting instead is a wonderful and many-faceted account of the Count's life in a busy hotel that is at the center of the cultural and political events of 20th century Russia. The hotel itself is like a town filled with shops, services, restaurants, and bars and these shops, services, restaurants and bars are themselves filled with fascinating and interesting characters who in one way or another impact the Count's life in ways good, bad, and at times complicated – but never dull.

The Count himself is a magical character – an intellectual, energetic man suddenly faced with a very limited life. He overcomes his fear of what the future presents with his down to earth approach to his circumstances, with his sense of humor, and with his ability to appreciate all that life has to offer. He manages through the years to have many friends, a lover, and even a kind of family within the narrow confines of the hotel. And this, of course, makes for unforgettable reading.

I understand that the book is being developed for a television series by Netflix with Kenneth Branagh as Count Rostov. I would suggest you read the book first to fully appreciate the talent of author Amor Towles and the story he tells. It's a very special experience.



## White Spinach Lasagna

*by Sandhya Karnick*

- 1 cont. (32 oz.) ricotta cheese
- 2 10 oz. packages frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup chopped and drained oil packed sun dried tomatoes
- ¾ tsp dried oregano
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- ¼ tsp coarse grind pepper
- 1/8 tsp ground nutmet
- 2 jars (16 oz.) Alfredo sauce
- 12 oven ready lasagna noodle from 1 (8oz.) package
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, 4 oz.

Preheat oven to 375 F. In owl combine ricotta, spinach, eggs, sun dried tomatoes, spices. Spread ¾ cup of Alfredo sauce in ungreased 13x9” baking dish. Top with 3 noodles.

Spread with 1/3 of ricotta mixture. Repeat layering twice with noodles and ricotta mixture, ending with noodles. Pour remaining Alfredo sauce over pasta.

Sprinkle with mozzarella. Cover with foil and bake

45 mins. Remove foil and bake until cheese is

melted and bubbling, 10 minutes. If desired, to

brown cheese, place lasagna under broiler for 2

mins. Let stand 10 mins. Before serving. Delicious.



## Social committee report

*by Zalman Bitensky, Barbara Kemp and Marilyn Green Crestal*

Since our last report in October 2018 the Social Committee has organized three Social Lunches. These were well attended as seen from the photos below.

Taken at Social Lunch 17 November 15, 2018



Taken at Social Lunch 18 June 18, 2019



Taken at Social Lunch 19 October 23, 2019

## Report from the President

*By Zalman Bitensky President BAA*

Since our last General Assembly on October 3, 2018 your executive has worked on the following activities ; The executive met four times over the year. We planned programs and discussed issues. Our membership increased by 7, so we now have 286 members. Newsletter No.9 was distributed, this Annual General Meeting organized and as always the members were kept informed about the BAA, Batshaw, events and other news through email.

The Social Committee planned two Social Lunches which were well attended. A third was organized for late October 23, 2019.

Financially we had a quiet year. Our current bank balance is \$1238.92

We continued to liaise with Care Jeunesse (a group for young adults leaving care) and monitored the progress of the Batshaw History Project through Louise Jessop. The Batshaw history project website is still looking for memorabilia from Batshaw and its constituent agencies. Throughout the year we continued to hear about declining services and poor working conditions at Batshaw from managers and front-line workers. The issues were alarmingly long waiting lists, low staff morale and a high rate of turnover with serious consequences for youth in care. In September 2019 the Coalition ( Batshaw Alumni, CARE Jeunesse and the Quebec Association of Educators) that was formed in response to Bill 10 and the merger deposited a letter with Madame Régine Laurent, the Présidente of the Commission spéciale sur les droits des enfants et la protection de la jeunesse which is investigating Quebec Youth Centers, following the death of a child in their care. The English version of this letter can be found in this Newsletter. It chronicles the Coalition's previous interventions with the Board of the CIUSSS and the Directors of the center. It highlights the post Bill 10 concerns for the safety of children and the wellbeing of staff and cautions that the deteriorating services could lead to tragic outcomes.

The Coalition recommended that: "With recognition of its specialization, an autonomous board and control of a sustainable budget, we believe that the center would have a much better chance to re-establish its foundation and rebuild its programs and services as well as its community relations". The executive was kept informed of these developments through Julia Pare and Robin Bondaroff.

A fundraiser (handbag and accessory) sale will, be planned for some time in June 2020 People should start thinking about kindly used purses and accessories they can donate to the sale and what you will buy at the sale.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the executive; 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. I wish to thank Tony Maciocia for his service and wish him luck in his future endeavors. I'd like to welcome Hawa Conteh as a new member of our executive. 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 and the means to communicate with the members of the Association.

I wish you all a healthy and rewarding year.

# Youth in Spirit with Art

by Deborah Walsh

Some artwork from this year's annual youth art exhibit

