

Dr Clown Newsletter
Vol. 4 No. 2
A prescription of tenderness

Hello everyone!

Welcome to summer after a springtime that was happily busy for Dr Clown! Here's why:

Happy Anniversary!

June 20 was **Dr Clown's** 2nd anniversary!! On behalf of our entire team we extend our warmest thanks to all of our donors and partners for their generous support throughout the year. Special thanks go to **Starlight Children's Foundation Canada**, the **Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation**, **Clarica**, **Holdun Investments**, **La Fondation René-Malo**, and to the **Minto Foundation**.

Walk-a-thon

Last may, approximately 800 students from 4 local high schools – **Loyola High School**, **Sacred Heart**, **Queen of Angels Academy**, and **Villa Maria** – walked 15 km from Loyola High School to the clock tower in Montreal's old port. This annual event helped raise **over \$53,000 for Dr Clown** that will help sustain our pediatric programs! Our sincere thanks go out to all the students who walked for our hospitalized kids, and to **Image Folie 2000** (www.imagefolie.com) for jumping in and helping us print t-shirts for the students.



Our team of silly clown-doctors posing with the cheque received as a result of the walk-a-thon



Ms. Daina Morrow presents a plaque to Dr L'Air de Rien, surrounded by our team of clown-doctors and accompanied by our Psychosocial Director, Florence Vinit, to his left

First prize!

"In recognition of its outstanding program contribution to persons with Alzheimer disease and their caregivers," **Dr Clown** was presented with the first prize from the **Alzheimer Society of Montreal** (www.alzheimermontreal.com), awarded in the context of the 2003 edition of their "**Forget-Me-Not**" program. Special thanks go to Ms. Daina Morrow of the Alzheimer Society and to Ms. Martine Dallaire from the CHSLD Résidence Paul-Lizotte, for developing a DVD on our work with elderly patients.

A beautiful gesture!

We would also like to thank the **Dorval Old Timer's Hockey Association** who included **Dr Clown** for the first time in their awarding of cheques to charitable organizations that benefit the local community.

A few sightings

Jocelyn Caron, one of our therapeutic artists also known as Dr. Super Bill, was interviewed in the June-July edition of *Enfants Québec*. (www.drclown.ca/images/enfants_quebec.gif)

As part of their 100th anniversary celebrations, the **Montreal Children's Hospital** had an open house to highlight and promote their services. **Dr Clown** was on hand to give guided tours of the hospital, answer questions, and of course, to visit with the children. (www.thechildren.com/Accueil.asp?l=e)

The **Respirology Clinic** at the **Montreal Children's Hospital** was asked by the Board of Health to do a preventative inoculation for tuberculosis at an elementary school in Montreal. The nurses from the department asked that the clown-doctors be present to help ease the anxiety and tension of the children waiting for their turn to get a needle. *"Thanks to the clowns, the process went smoothly and happily."*



Dr Fifi and Dr L'Air de Rien posing with Dr Clown's poster, on display during the open house

Dr Clown was invited to give a talk for the nurses' monthly lunch and learn at the **Montreal Children's Hospital** on "Humour and Healing", which took place on May 6th and 13th. They wanted to organize something special because **Nurses' Week** took place during the month of May. We were happy to spend time with them in a non-stressful environment, and exchange ways of using humour in their work.



Dr Fifi and Dr Super Bill posing with Mr. Christensen

Finally, on July 13th, Dr Clown was privileged to have **Michael Christensen** observe Dr Fifi and Dr Super Bill at the **Montreal Children's Hospital**. Co-founder and Creative Director for the **Big Apple Circus** in New York, Michael Christensen also founded the **Big Apple Circus Clown CareSM** therapeutic clowning unit in 1986, the first ever therapeutic clown program in the world. (www.bigapplecircus.org/CommunityPrograms/ClownCare/)

A few stories

Kids:

On the 7th floor, the head nurse asked for our help. Our beloved mentally challenged C who is from Latin America and has a beautiful smile, was crying quietly as she was having some stitches removed from her head. But when Dr Fifi and Dr L'Air de Rien showed up, and their attempts at putting on a show failed miserably, C started laughing at them as they kept hitting and insulting one another, grumbling away in Latin American expressions. Finally, Dr L'Air de

Rien couldn't take anymore of Dr Fifi's hitting, and exclaimed "Caramba!!!!" It was quite the grand finale....C couldn't stop laughing and had a great time repeating "Caramba!", bursting in laughter each time. Her tears quickly dried up...mission accomplished! Caramba!

"For the hundredth time I was moved by the bubbles game with N, a little handicapped boy who has limited use of his arms and hands. He went to great lengths to catch the bubbles and was filled with joy when he became aware that he was accomplishing such an extraordinary feat, which is something that may not happen much in his lifetime." (Dr Quenouille)

Adults:

Dr Coucoune told the story of the time she met Ms. G, who took her hand and thanked her for lifting her spirits. Thing is, Dr Coucoune hadn't done anything yet! It was the long-term effect of **Dr Clown**'s last visit a few weeks earlier that prompted Ms. G's reaction. Two weeks prior, she had the privilege of meeting with two of Dr Coucoune's colleagues who included her in their dance contest. The clowns' tender prescription was most effective: Ms. G was still laughing about it two weeks later!

Help us spread the smiles!

Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you feel may be interested. We are happy to send the newsletter by email or post. If you have received this by post and would prefer to receive future mailings by email, please send an email to: newsletter@drclown.ca.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the development of **Dr Clown**. Have a fabulous summer!