

**Dr Clown Newsletter  
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### **Official launch of our website!!!**

We invite you to visit us at [www.drclown.ca](http://www.drclown.ca) and to save this address among your favourites!!! In fact, our site was even chosen by La Presse as last week's *website of the week* in their "Bulletin Santé"!! The site features our latest news, extensive information on the work of therapeutic clowning, testimonials, lots of touching photos for you to enjoy, and articles and letters of support for you to download. We hope you enjoy your visit, and welcome any comments or questions you may have. Drop us a line at [web@drclown.ca](mailto:web@drclown.ca).

### **2005 Fundraising Campaign**

Our 2004 Fundraising Campaign was very successful and thanks to all of you we were able to raise over \$139,000! Our 2005 campaign has officially begun and we are in **urgent** need of funding to help sustain our various highly needed programs. Your generous support to date has played a vital role in easing the suffering of Montreal's sick children by bringing them a tender dose of pure fun. We hope we can continue to count on your much appreciated support. Please give generously.



Our own Dr Pouding

We would especially like to thank our latest contributors, [Cogeco](#), [Pfizer](#), and the [Royal Bank of Canada](#). We would also like to thank [Starlight Children's Foundation of Canada](#), the [Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation](#) and [Clarica](#) for their on-going support.

### **Centre de réadaptation Marie-Enfant**

Great news! Our most recent program evaluation has revealed that the staff has a better appreciation for the value of the clowns' approach and considers them to be part of the family. Physio and occupational therapists would like to explore new ways of collaborating with the clowns. As one physiotherapist explained: *"It would be interesting to have the clowns more available during therapy sessions for certain children to help with the follow-up in rehabilitation."* Our warmest thanks go to our liaison, Ms. Hélène Dubé and to the [Starlight Children's Foundation Canada](#) who have been contributing to the success of this program since its inception in 2002.

### **Hôpital Sainte-Justine**

Our programs on 6-4 and 6-6 (Transplants and multiple-specialties) are finally official. Following the success of the pilot-project launched in 2003, **Dr Clown** is now part of the family. Many thanks to Ms. Martine Legault, Head of the department who was our co-ordinator for the entire year, Dr. Jean-Guy Mongeau, Pediatrician, for helping us establish the program, and especially to [Clarica](#), to [Starlight Children's Foundation of Canada](#) and many individual donors for their support of the program.

### **Montreal Children's Hospital**

Our two programs are still going strong thanks to the help of the [Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation](#) and to [Starlight Children's Foundation of Canada](#). Our liaison, Ms. Marie-France Haineault, Child Life Specialist, assures the smooth collaboration with the Child Life

Department. We were recently invited to speak to student nurses about the philosophy and approach of our work. We thank them for their warm welcome.

### CHSLD Notre-Dame de la Merci

A new CHSLD pilot-project! Thanks to the great efforts of the recreational and leisure director at CHSLD Notre-Dame de la Merci, Ms. Julie Deslauriers, **Dr Clown** began regular weekly visits to this senior's residence, on October 20th. This is our second long-term care facility, (Paul-Lizotte having begun in 1999 and still going strong!) Thank you to the **Fondation Notre-Dame de la Merci** for supporting this 5 month pilot-project!

### École Nationale de l'humour and CHSLD Résidence Paul-Lizotte

We have begun an innovative project with the students of the École Nationale de l'humour and the residents of CHSLD Résidence Paul-Lizotte long term care facility. The intent of the project is to initiate the students to the work and art of therapeutic clowning. They receive a clown workshop delivered by our artistic Director Francine Côté, followed by a course on Ethics taught by Florence Vinit, our psychosocial director, and students also have the opportunity to observe the clowns and participate in their weekly visits to the residence. Student feedback to date indicates that they are learning a lot from this exchange on the power, necessity, forms and uses of humour and its effects on people in various stages of illness and ageing. We extend our thanks to Ms. Martine Dallaire, our liaison at the residence, and to Ms. Louise Richer, General and Academic Director of the École Nationale de l'humour for supporting this initiative.

### New York here we come!

The development team of Dr Clown will be taking a trip to the Big Apple in November to exchange with Big Apple Circus Clown Care, the first ever clown-doctor program in existence, established in 1986. We will be spending two days observing their clowns in hospital and their organizational structure.

### Happy Birthday Therapeutic Clowns in Toronto!

The therapeutic clown team in Toronto is eleven years old this year and held a big celebration to which Dr Clown was invited. Karen Ridd, (Robo), received an award of recognition as the first person to establish therapeutic clowning in Canada. Congratulations Karen!

### 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](mailto:newsletter@drclown.ca).



The clowns of the Therapeutic Clown Program at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Happy birthday!