



Block party donates funds to Boys and Girls Club

Michelle Nash
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A block party hosted by a Vanier neighbourhood watch group celebrated the start of summer vacation with a generous donation to the Boys and Girls Club's McCann clubhouse.

Held on June 26, the party was organized by the original neighbourhood watch group in Vanier. The Longpré Street neighbourhood watch team raised \$355 for the clubhouse.

"It was important for all of us to make sure the money would go to local kids," said watch captain Rose Anne Leonard.

The block party was organized all within one month, with Leonard quickly filing the paperwork to make sure they would get the street closure application in before the deadline.

Another watch member, Christine Paquette, also worked hard getting things ready for the event. All the neighbours sold 50/50 tickets in the community and at work and made sure there would be enough food and games for all the families in the neighbourhood.

The day involved hot dogs, salads and lots of games for the children.

"The kids had a great time. The day just couldn't have gone any better," Paquette said.

The decision to give the money to the local Boys and Girls Club was a natural decision for everyone involved.

In Vanier, there are now nine neighbourhood watch teams, all of which got started after Leonard and her neighbours organized the Longpré team. Although their street is a small and mostly quiet one, it was important to both Paquette and Leonard to have this group.

"We didn't want the police to feel like they were on their own. It is important for a community to work together to make a neighbourhood safe," Paquette said.

The first to start a watch and now the first to hold a neighbourhood watch block party, Paquette hopes this will inspire other groups and streets to start up their own.

Leonard and the rest of the street can not wait for their next party.

"We are pretty pumped; everything went so wonderfully, we are looking at this as a start of a new tradition." Leonard said.



Block party gets thumbs up. Members of the Longpré neighbourhood watch team celebrated their first neighbourhood watch block party by donating \$355 to the McCann Boys and Girls Clubhouse. Const. Jennifer Gourgone, left, Const. Christopher Cochrane celebrated the event with the team members. Mike Boisclair, back left, Samuel Earle, Rose Anne Leonard and Christine Paquette, front left, Christine Boisclair, Daniel Brunette, Cynthia Bekolay and Talia Earle. The first neighbourhood watch organized in Vanier, the members hope to make the party an annual event.
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The donation was given to the Boys and Girls club on July 5. McCann Clubhouse manager, Adam Joiner thanked the team for their hard work, dedication and generous donation to the club.

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