

St. Jude Catholic School Cake Auction Raises over \$2,400 for Sacha's Park

April 22, 2016

VANKLEEK HILL -- A cake auction held by students at St. Jude Catholic School on April 21st raised over \$2,400 for an inclusive playground project that is set to be built in L'Original. Several cakes prepared by staff and parents for the event were auctioned off in support of Sacha's Park. The cakes up for bid featured various themes such as a Batman logo, a treasure chest, a classroom, and a candy land.

Park organizer, Jacquelyn Chenier, expressed her gratitude to the students and staff who participated in the fundraiser, saying: *"I am truly amazed at the creativity of some of these cakes. Sacha loved Batman, and to see several with a Batman theme is really touching. We can't thank the students, parents, and staff at St. Jude enough for their support in helping make Sacha's Park a reality"*.

Sacha's Park will feature accessible equipment that will allow children of all abilities to play together. Site preparation for the project is already underway, and installation of the playground equipment is expected to commence in early fall.

Fundraising effort for Sacha's Park continues, with donations still being accepted at the Champlain Township hall, or online at: [gofundme.com/EveryoneCanPlay](https://www.gofundme.com/EveryoneCanPlay)

Attached Photos:

1. Candyland-themed cake.
2. Batman logo cake.
3. treasure chest themed cake.
4. From L-R: Jacquelyn Chenier (Sacha's Park organizer) and Julia Fortin (teacher) standing beside some of the cakes that were up for auction.

About Sacha's Park:

A playground, to be known as Sacha's Park, is being proposed for the new *Place La Seigneurie* development in L'Original. The playground, once built, will be different than a typical playground in that it will be universally accessible allowing children of all abilities to fully enjoy the park and its equipment. The goal for Sacha's Park is to create a playground that is inclusive and where the equipment

works for everyone, including children with disabilities. Sacha's Park will be a playground where EVERYONE can play. The Chenier family have purchased property which they are donating to the Township of Champlain for the park to be built on. The Chenier family are working in collaboration with the Township of Champlain to secure funding for the equipment, which will cost several hundred thousand dollars. Construction of the initial phase of the park is slated to begin in the early fall of 2016.

About Sacha Chenier:

Sacha Chenier was an 11 year old boy who lived in L'Orignal, Ontario. He was severely affected by cerebral palsy and required the use of a wheelchair for most of his life. He was also born blind, epileptic, and with severe cognitive delays. Sacha required assistance for his daily care, as he was unable to do the most basic of tasks without help. He was lovingly cared for at home where he lived with his parents Jason and Jacquelyn and his older brother Sebastien. Despite his many challenges, Sacha was a happy little boy who loved to be around other children. He attended school in Hawkesbury at École Paul VI where he was loved by his many friends. Sacha always had a smile on his face and his infectious laughter could brighten up a room. Sacha passed away suddenly on June 9th 2014 due to epilepsy related complications.

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More information about Sacha's Park:

GoFundMe.com/EveryoneCanPlay

Facebook.com/SachasPark

Tumblr: sachaspark.tumblr.com

Twitter: @SachasPark

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