

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sacha's Park yard sale raises over \$4,000

June 1, 2015

Champlain, ON – Over four thousand dollars was raised this past weekend at a yard sale in support of efforts to build a universally accessible playground in L'Original. The yard sale, organized by a group of people dedicated to raising funds towards the construction of a park in memory of Sacha Chenier, was held in the village of L'Original on Saturday May 30th. Items sold at the sale had been donated by supporters of the project as a way of contributing towards the \$500,000 needed to purchase the park equipment. The park, to be built on land donated by the Chenier family, will be one of the most inclusive playgrounds in Canada and feature items that will allow children of all abilities to play together.

Some of the donated items included: a sewing machine for quilting, a collectible train set, several bicycles, sporting equipment, and toys. Jacquelyn Chenier, Sacha's mother, says "we are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the community. People were incredibly generous with the items that they gave. One item alone sold for \$750".

Jacquelyn also said that the Club Optimiste (région de L'Original) contributed to the event by donating \$1,000 to the park project during the sale. "It was wonderful of the Club Optimiste to come out and show their support for our project. They are such a great organization and we are thrilled to have them in our corner".

The success of yard sale exceeded the expectations of the park's fundraising committee. "We can't thank everyone enough for helping us get a little bit closer to making Sacha's Park a reality", says Jacquelyn.

The park's fundraising efforts will continue at the upcoming Steve Barton Golf Classic on July 17th at the Hawkesbury Golf and Curling Club. Registration forms can be obtained at the Scotiabank in Vankleek Hill.

More information about Sacha's Park can be found online at gofundme.com/EveryoneCanPlay

PHOTO : Louise Sproule

Club Optimiste (région de L'Original) presented a donation to help build Sacha's Park. Left to right: Jacques Lacelle (Champlain Township councillor for this ward), Optimist Club President Isabelle Blanchette, Alice Nadeau (member of the Club Optimiste), Yvan Desjardins (secretary, Club Optimiste), Jacinthe Labonté (member of the Club Optimiste), and Sacha's Park representatives Sebastien and Jason Chenier).

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. A playground where EVERYONE can play.

The Chenier family has purchased property for the park to be built on and are working with the Township of Champlain, who are supportive of the project, to secure funding for the equipment, which will cost several hundred thousand dollars.

About Sacha Chenier:

Sacha Chenier was an 11-year old boy who lived in L'Original, 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 élémentaire catholique 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.

Media Contact information

Jason Chenier and Jacquelyn Chenier
e-mail: SACHAsPARK@gmail.com
phone: 613-676-0517 (Jacquelyn)

More information about Sacha's Park

GoFundMe.com/EveryoneCanPlay
Facebook.com/SachasPark
Tumblr: sachaspark.tumblr.com
Twitter: @SachasPark