

The OPTIMIST

Spring 2018

Spring into Action – May is Optimists in Action Month!





THE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION Responds to the Call

When you live in the province of Québec, spring may be your favorite season. Indeed, it is always nice to see the sun coming out, the snow melting and the buds booming when you have spent the past three months or so with your feet warm in boots and holding a shovel. This is why the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation's staff has decided to welcome spring by presenting the Club Optimiste de Cap-Saint-Ignace from Cap-Saint-Ignace one of the four \$500 Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Club Grants in 2017.

The project was developed in partnership with the local school daycare service. After school, the participating children could learn about gardening and the environment. Then, when the snow finally melted, the extracurricular activity

could move outside. There, the children from Cap-Saint-Ignace learned how to plant seeds and to take care of a garden.

Alain Brebion, Member of Club Optimiste de Cap-Saint-Ignace, thought they would have launched the Optimist Garden project even if they did not get the grant, though the money has been a well-received surprise. With the \$500 offered by the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation the Club has purchased gardening tools for the participating children so that they can have their own garden at home and spread the love of gardening. The Club could also buy some door prizes to engage the students.

This is not the only thing the Cap-Saint-Ignace kids have received. They could share the



organic vegetables that they harvested. What a great way to encourage children to eat more vegetables! They even produced enough crops to sell some at the local farmer's market, always with the support of the Optimist Members.

Therefore, the Cap-Saint-Ignace's children have acquired a number of skills. They have learned how to sow crops, how to harvest vegetables, how to take care of their environment and how to communicate to sell their crops. In addition, what about the Optimist Club? They have networked and promoted their Club with the daycare staff and the parents, and they could build bridges with the

agribusiness, an important business in that area of the Lower St. Lawrence region.

"This is the kind of activity our Club is interested in," said Alain Brebion. "Besides the Optimist garden, we also have a soap-box race. We are in direct contact with the community and I think it is good for our Club."

Would your Club like to receive a \$500 Club grant for a project they hold dear? You have until June 30 to send the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation your application for the 3rd quarter. Visit ccof-foec.org or call (514) 593-4401 for more information.

