



Vaudreuil-Dorion

PRESS RELEASE

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Day Camps 2020: A Challenge Accomplished With Great Success!

Vaudreuil-Dorion, August 27, 2020 – The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is pleased that it was able to offer its citizens access to its Summer Day Camp, its thematic Air en fête Day Camp and its new Playground Day Camp option. Despite the difficulties and complexity of having to put the required measures in place, the team from the Recreation and Culture Department was able to meet all challenges with great success.

Because of the uncertainties created by the pandemic that has plagued Quebec since March, as well as the whole world, all public activities organized by cities had to be reviewed, revamped, and even cancelled in some cases. For a few weeks, the likelihood of being able to offer summer camps to the population in the first place was highly uncertain and all cities were waiting for government measures to be announced. In Mayor Guy Pilon's words: «When the Quebec government gave its approval for the day camps, it undoubtedly became a priority for the city council to offer day camp services to allow kids the chance to socialize and provide respite for parents. Not only was the City able to set up the day camp, all while respecting the numerous measures imposed by the Quebec government, but in addition, we were also able to introduce a new Playground option, a free service where kids from different neighbourhoods could go to a park close to home and take part in organized play under the supervision of an animator. This new option turned out to be a resounding success that we are extremely proud of. I want to extend my congratulations to each member of the team of animators involved because they did an amazing job.»

A Few Statistics

Playground Activities

On average, 600 children took part every week in the 12 selected parks. At parc de la Seigneurie and parc Géranium, more than 90 kids showed up every week, which translates into roughly twelve kids a day, and often even more. In all the other parks, average participation was 45 kids per week, or about ten per day.

Only five animation modules had to be cancelled due to rain this summer, meaning that 63 modules were offered in the parks from July 30 to August 14.

All this was made possible thanks to an extraordinary team of 24 animators.

Youth Day Camp

More than 453 children registered for Day Camp which took place at six different sites. An average of 270 children were present during each of the seven weeks.

A team of 51 group animators and 22 assistants worked under the supervision of 18 leaders.

Air en fête thematic Day Camp

124 children participated and 58 spaces were available each week.

It should be noted that the number of spaces available was much smaller than for previous years. In 2019, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion hosted an average of 1,000 children each week.

A Diversified Summer Program

Other than Day Camps, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion was pleased to offer its citizens a temporary drive-in movie theatre, a safer alternative to the usual outdoor movies and Ciné-club La Boîte Lumineuse – activities that usually take place at various neighbourhood parks and Maison Félix-Leclerc. The drive-in movie theatre, located on the Cité-des-Jeunes campus, made it possible for citizens to experience a drive-in movie at a very affordable cost, during fourteen evenings over the Summer. More than 1,700 people were able to enjoy this fun activity.

The jesuismozaik.com website, which is the City's cultural platform, continued to publish articles and videos to the delight of all lovers of culture. This is also the website where the traditional Rythmes d'été concerts were broadcast all Summer, instead of being presented on the stage of Parc de la Maison-Valois, and featured artists such as Maxime Landry, Virginie Cummins, Brian Tyler and Briga. Excerpts from their performances were also broadcast at the drive-in theatre and via the multimedia vehicle that moved through the City's streets throughout the Summer. In other cultural news, Maison Félix Leclerc opened its doors in July to offer guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays. Lastly, in June, the ever-popular public library launched its 100% virtual TD Summer Reading Club and online programming orchestrated by the LAB, a digital space to create.

The Quebec summer was punctuated by heat waves, but fortunately the eleven water play areas spread over the City were in operation and the two outdoor pools were reopened in accordance with the numerous government guidelines. Two other major summer hits: Boat rentals at Parc de la Maison Valois and the Sports Program at 405 Saint-Charles.

These incredible accomplishments are the result of a team effort that required the involvement of several City Departments, and Director-General Olivier Van Neste said it best: "I want to thank all City employees for their involvement, their creativity, their dedication and their thoroughness. They took on the challenge of providing the public with an outstanding Summer Program and made it possible for hundreds of children and citizens to have a fun and safe Summer in spite of the ongoing pandemic. Congratulations!".