

Beautification committee awarded for hard work

Michelle Nash-Oct 23, 2012



Committee celebrates good news, birthday. The Vanier Beautification committee celebrated its five year anniversary on Oct. 16. The evening's celebrations included cake, and the announcement the group has received the volunteer of the year award from Crime Prevention Ottawa. *Michelle Nash*

Vanier Beautification will receive the volunteer of the year award from Crime Prevention Ottawa, the group announced at its fifth anniversary celebrations on Oct. 16.

"It is very exciting news," said Marguerite Beaulieu, co-chairwoman of the committee.

The group will receive its award on Nov. 5 at city hall during the Crime Prevention Ottawa's annual awards gala. To celebrate the group's accomplishments, a video will be made.

"It will focus on how important participation from the residents is," Beaulieu said.

A collection of Vanier residents that pride themselves on being doers, not talkers, the group does everything from picking garbage to planting and tending to gardens across the neighbourhood.

The award, Beaulieu said, is quite an accomplishment and she wanted all the members to give themselves a pat on the back.

Created as a way to counter drug and prostitution activities taking place in the neighbourhood, the group focused on beautification efforts, working from the theory that if Vanier is an attractive place to live, residents will respect the area more.

As part of the nomination process, letters of support were sent to Crime Prevention Ottawa by the Vanier Community Association, the Vanier Community Service Centre and Rideau-Vanier Cou. Mathieu Fleury. "My job is made easier, as a city councillor for Rideau-Vanier ward, because of the amazing work that they do," Fleury wrote in his letter.

The committee formed in 2007 as part of the Together for Vanier initiative started by Crime Prevention Ottawa. In five years, the membership has grown to more than 200 residents, who help with numerous activities and events throughout the community.

The meeting also saw the election of the group's newest co-chairwoman, Tina Delaney, who will replace Lucie Marleau. "Tina (Delaney) is an avid gardener, an enthusiastic member and a devoted resident of Vanier," Beaulieu said. "I truly look forward to working with you." Beaulieu thanked former Marleau for her years of devotion, hard work and leadership.

"Thankfully, Lucie (Marleau) will continue to be part of Beautification in a role of 'consultant par excellence' so we will all continue to benefit from her energy, her enthusiasm, her creativity, and her love of Vanier," Beaulieu said. "On behalf of our members, I thank her for her support and inspiration. Personally, I have truly enjoyed working with this dynamic and loving person."

The next beautification meeting will take place on Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.