



St. Alban's
Boys & Girls Club
A good place to be

MEDIA RELEASE

St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club opens new youth centre in Jane and Finch community

For immediate release (Toronto, ON, September 19 2013):

St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club is pleased to announce the opening of the new Jane and Finch Boys and Girls Club youth centre, located at 308B Grandravine Drive. Today a number of community members, supporters, funders, Club youth, and staff proudly unveiled the new facility and celebrated the eight years of hard work it took to complete the centre.

Also joining the celebration, were Baseball Hall of Fame's Roberto Alomar, recording artist July Black, and BGC Alumni Anthony Bennett, the number one overall pick in the 2013 NBA Draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers. Bennett was raised in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood and attended Jane and Finch Boys and Girls Club as a child.

The centre is a welcome addition to the community - it is the first new Boys and Girls Club building in Toronto in 30 years and the first ever standalone, youth programming and service specific Boys and Girls Club Centre.

The youth centre will provide a safe and supportive place for youth to experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life. The centre will be open on weekdays from 1:00pm-9:00pm and will be staffed by qualified, well trained leaders. The youth centre has a dance studio, a computer lab, a kitchen, a recording studio, a lounge and weight equipment and will provide programs in employment readiness, drug and gang prevention, social development, arts, sports, health, nutrition, and academic assistance. It is expected that the centre will serve more than 100 youth between the ages of 13-21 per week.

"St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club has been successfully running programs for children in the Jane and Finch community since 1999, but with limited space for programs, there were many youth that were not able to access our services after school," said Chris Foster, Executive Director of St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club, "with the generous support from our sponsors, service partners and the community, our new youth centre will help us provide a more diversified range of drop in and skill based programs, increase the number of program hours available for youth, and reach more youth in this community than ever before."

Anthony Bennett described the major role that the Boys and Girls Club played in his childhood: "I would be there six days a week. Just there, getting my schoolwork done, everybody was just pushing all the kids to stay on track, stay focused and avoid the street life."

"As the charitable arm of The Toronto Blue Jays, Jays Care Foundation has made a steady commitment to serving children and youth in communities from coast to coast," said Rob Drynan, Executive Director, Jays Care Foundation. "Our investment at St Alban's Boys and Girls Club has provided youth with a safe place to stay physically active and develop a strong foundation for future life experiences."

The new youth centre was built with the support of the Carolyn Sifton Foundation, CIBC, Newman's Own Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, employees of RBC Capital Markets, Rogers Youth Fund, TD, Toronto Blue Jays through Jays Care Foundation, Toronto Community Housing, United Way of Toronto, Youth Challenge Fund and staff, board of directors and friends of St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club.

The Grandravine location is the newest addition the network of communities St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club currently serves. St. Alban's was founded in 1949 and serves over 3000 members a year across the GTA, including locations in three United Way identified priority neighbourhoods. Passionate, well trained staff and volunteers lead a diverse range of programs and services such as daycare, early years programs, after school programs, sports and recreation programs, youth leadership programs, summer camp, aquatic lessons, tutoring, mentoring, arts programs, employment readiness programs and more. At St. Alban's, we strive to maintain and strengthen our core services to children and youth while growing to meet the varied and changing needs of our communities. To learn more, visit www.stalbansclub.ca.

St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club is a member of Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, a national movement of clubs operating in 600 community locations in every province, currently serving more than 200,000 children and youth. For over 100



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years, Boys and Girls Clubs have offered young Canadians opportunities to discover, develop and achieve their potential. To learn more, visit www.bgccan.com.

For more information:

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