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LaSalle's holiday raises big for charity

LaSalle Ont. December 2—LaSalle's holiday bonanza drew hundreds to the event and raised thousands of donations for Sparky's Toy Drive.

On Saturday, December 2, the Town of LaSalle hosted a blow-out holiday event at the Vollmer Culture and Recreation Centre. A holiday one-stop-shop market featuring dozens of local vendors lined the corridors to sell homemade goods, while the annual pancake breakfast was served to families for a chance to meet Santa and LaSalle Mayor Ken Antaya. Kids had plenty of fun activities to do, including face painting and a guitar sing-a-long. The Vollmer Complex's fitness centre also hosted an open house. In total, more than 700 guests attended the event.

"We could not be more pleased with the bonanza," said Dawn Hadre, communications director for the Town of LaSalle. "Hundreds of families came out, had a great time, and made some amazing memories. We can't wait to see what the turnout will be next year."

The most successful part of the entire event, however, was the thousands of toys donated to Sparky's Toy Drive, which held a collection during the bonanza. In total, 3,000 brand new toys were donated to give to children and families in need.

"The generosity of the folks of LaSalle blew us away," said LaSalle Fire Chief Dave Sutton who organized the toy collection. "We didn't just collect toys, we collected hope and smiles for thousands of struggling families across Essex County."

Plans are already underway to make next year's holiday bonanza bigger and better.

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