

# Fundraiser money stolen from Riverview Boys and Girls Club at Coverdale Centre

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TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

The staff of the Riverview Boys and Girls Club walked into the Coverdale Centre on Wednesday to find their daycare room strewn with glass and debris.

The community centre on Runnymede Road had been broken into overnight and several items were missing. Staff Eric Larose of the Codiac Regional RCMP said a computer and a small amount of money were stolen from the centre, where the club holds its programming.

Larose said they believe the theft happened between 9 p.m. on Tuesday and 6:45 a.m. on Wednesday.

The RCMP is still investigating the incident, said Larose. "We believe that a [surveillance] video will be available soon to us."

Lynda Carey, the club's executive director, said the daycare room had been torn apart.

"Glass things had been broken and smashed. Boxes that had locked lids were broken and destroyed."

One of the boxes contained the money from the club's Gold Rush draw. Gold Rush is a modified 50-50 draw. A participant registers a specific number in a database that they keep for all of the draws. Every week they have an opportunity to write their number on a toonie and put it in the box for the draw.

There are 10 boxes around Riverview where the toonies are collected.

Each Thursday, a number is selected from the database. If the player whose number was drawn had submitted their toonie, they win 50 per cent of the pot. If they didn't play their toonie that week, the entries are rolled over to the next week until a winner is drawn.

Before the money was stolen from the



Lynda Carey, the executive director for the Riverview Boys and Girls Club, left, and Frankie Wallace, the club's fund development coordinator, were heartbroken to find the club's daycare room at the Coverdale Centre was broken into on Wednesday night. All the money in the box from the club's weekly lottery fundraiser was stolen. PHOTO: SARAH SEELEY/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

Coverdale Centre, the pot was expected to be \$2,556. According to the New Brunswick Department of Public Safety's Gaming Control Branch regulations, the club is unable to hold the draw if a box has been compromised or broken into.

Carey said because of the break-in, the entries would be rolled over for the next week and no draw was held on Thursday. Participants will be able to drop off their toonies throughout the week before the Aug. 3 draw.

"It's unfortunate, but I think it's the fairest way to do it because that way everyone who did get to play or thinks they played gets another chance," said Carey.

The proceeds from the Gold Rush draws support the operation and programming for the Boys and Girls Club. Carey said she was "heartbroken" to hear the club had lost money during the break-in.

"It's hard to understand how people would steal from children and a

non-profit agency that's trying to support itself."

The club is a non-profit organization that provides after-school programming for youths. It has been operating out of the Coverdale Centre for close to 25 years and Carey said this was the first time she had seen the theft of money from the Gold Rush boxes.

Despite the incident, Carey and the staff are focused on making the centre a positive environment for the children. "We get by and we keep going."