



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

The Lakeshorian

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Rotary



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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This Week's Program...

Catherine Sharouty, Program Manager for Health Partners International of Canada, will bring us up to date on this important organization that consolidates and provides donated medicine, supplies and vaccines to the developing world.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

Happy Birthday, JP Thursday, July 13th!

Future Programs...

- July 18: **Award-winning photographer Tony Hadley**, presented by **Emily** for our visual pleasure.
- July 25: **Albane Gaudissart**, Co-Founder and Director of the TATU Project, a non-profit organization that facilitates sustainable development for rural communities in Northern Tanzania.
- Aug 1: [Evening meeting] T.B.D.

Special Events...

- Aug 28: (Monday) Graham Martin Memorial blood donor clinic, at the Kirkland Sports Complex from 12:30 to 8:30. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be sent out in mid-August. Meanwhile, please save the date.
- Nov 3: (Friday) Our annual **Oyster Party**, at the Baie d'Urfé Public Works garage, home of the Baie d'Urfé Rescue Squad, 300 Surrey Drive, Baie d'Urfé. **This is the best Oyster Party on the West Island!** It will also be our biggest fund-raising event of the fall. We're counting on YOU to sell lots and lots of tickets this year, so we can try to match last year's amazing event.

Our District Governor, 2017-18...

Susan "Sue" Bellor, our new DG, sent us her bio, and she's a keeper!

Retired teacher but still teaching a course for student teachers of Spanish and French, as Adjunct Professor at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

Sue earned an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Cambridge, England, for her contributions to foreign language education and has earned several awards in education. In 2016 she won the Lifetime Achievement Award in Education. She has also been offered a Research Professorship and has been asked to participate in the International Congress for Arts, Education, Science and Communication in 2018.



A member of the International Women's Leadership Association, Sue still serves International Baccalaureate North America as education consultant and continues work for New York State and the US Department of Education.

Active in several community organizations, her passion to serve and be kind to others drew Sue to Rotary. She is past president of the Massena Rotary Club, director of her club's Rotary Foundation committee, a Benefactor, Bequest Society member, Paul Harris Society member and a major donor. Sue serves as co-chair of the district's Million Dollar Dinner.

She and her husband are proud of their two daughters, Jennifer and Kate; both have earned 3 graduate degrees, work hard and run daily as well as marathons and half-marathons.

Last Week's Meeting...

Our new club president, **Helen Cane**, would tell us what to expect in the year ahead.

We were pleased to welcome 12 Active Members: **Wayne, Helen, Lawrence, Maureen, Kelly-Anne, Stan, Bill, Semi, Anne, Knud, Brenda** and **Joe Zemanovich** plus Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell**.

We were also pleased to welcome visiting Rotarian **Sati Khanna** from the Rotary Club of Nagpur Maharashtra, India, and a Rotarian who has moved to Montreal and plans to transfer her membership to our club...**Paulina Catalan**, formerly a first-year Rotarian from Costa Rica. We were also happy to welcome four guests: **Sabba Sadat, Anita**, guest of Stan, **June**, guest of Bill and **Glorefe Kozma**.

Lawrence asked that members who invite speakers to please let him know if there are any unusual aspects to their invitation. "For example," he said, "if you plan to pay for that speaker's meal, it's important that I be aware of that up front. The reason is that I send out an advance message to new speakers, giving them some fundamental rules to be followed. One of those rules specifies that the club covers the cost of the speaker but not of any guests who accompany the speaker."

Bill pointed out that the club has always in the past allowed a speaker to bring one guest whose meal cost will also be paid by the club.

Lawrence said that had not been his understanding.

Stan said as Sergeant-at-Arms he is flexible but if a speaker brought only one guest the club would cover the cost.

Lawrence agreed to rework his advance letter to speakers to clarify that they can bring one guest whose meal will be covered by the club. More than one will have to pay \$20 each.

Paulina told us she had only been a Rotarian for a year but has been very happy in her club. "This year I was named Rotarian of the Year, which was a very nice surprise. I am not the type who tries to win awards. I just love to serve others.

"I want to tell you some of the projects my club is working on; it's always good to know what other clubs are doing.

"Somehow the members of my club needed someone like me to push them, kick them in the you-know-where. 'Let's get ourselves out of the comfort zone,' I told them. So we decided to do a project involving a grant. I went to the United States and visited the Santa Clarita club in California. I took four projects for them to review and they chose one. So now we're moving 100 kids from low-income families, who have brain paralysis. The building where they have been receiving therapy is—well, to make a comparison, the hotel we are in now is like a castle compared to that building. There are no windows. There is no ventilation. They have leakage problems. The bathroom is not appropriate for kids in wheelchairs. It's really sad where they are; they don't even have a proper space to park. The mothers have to lift the kids out of their wheelchairs to take them into the building. If you ever lift one of these kids you realize they are dead weight. They are just bones.

"So now we're moving these kids to a better place. I picture so many flowers; I see trees; I see grass; I see windows. And it's going to happen. And when it happens I'm going to send pictures to all of you.

"We also have another project. It's a computer clubhouse. We are working with the White Bear Lake Rotary Club in Minnesota.

"We just finished another one with The Wheelchair Foundation, working with several Rotary clubs in California.

"In Costa Rica our Rotary club—we don't have money, but we are the bridge for many projects in our country. That's why people are calling on us to do amazing things. If you ever feel like you'd like to try something in Costa Rica, it would be awesome for our club to work with you.



"I love Rotary. I'm here on vacation right now but I'm also working. My husband says, 'You gotta stop this. You're on vacation with me.' It has been three months since we've been apart. Now I have this mini-project with three teenagers, 14 years old, from poor families. One is from a single-parent family. They are brilliant, outstanding kids. Right now we're trying to encourage these kids to take life coaching lessons, so I came here to see if you would like to help us somehow. I know I could get a No. I could get a Si. I took the challenge. I wanted to share this with you. I am the youngest person in my club and, believe me, I have rocked the boat. It's too easy just to keep on doing what you have been doing but I took them out of their comfort zone. I risked coming here. I need money for these three kids. If you can help me it would be awesome!

"Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba, said, 'Young people will have the seeds you bury in their minds and when they grow up they will change the world.'

"So, come to Costa Rica. Let me show you what we have to offer and what we need to do it. Thank you."

[It has been a long time since we have had such an accomplished and effervescent impromptu speaker! *Ed.*]

Bill won the right to search for the Ace of Spades and win the 50/50, but turned over the Six of Clubs instead. So the pot will continue to grow.

Helen rose to the occasion she has been waiting for since PETS, the opportunity to take over the club as our real president, not just a temporary stand-in.

"Bill was asking me for a bio, which I didn't have time to prepare, so now I'll give you all an oral summary of my background and Bill will have his bio for the bulletin.

"As you can tell by my accent I'm from the north of England originally. I came to Canada 'for five years.' Now I've been here for twenty-five years. A few more and I will have lived in Canada longer than I lived in the UK.

"I grew up and was educated in the UK and then I came here and got married in 1992. I first became a Rotarian in 1999 with the Montreal-Westward club. I was with them for about five years and then life interfered, as it sometimes does, and I had to put my family first, so I was actually out of Rotary for quite a long time.

"I'd been thinking about getting back into Rotary for a while and then I bumped into this guy at a fundraising breakfast, a guy called Knud. This is going back two or three years now, and I just happened to buy an auction ticket from him. He says to me, 'Why don't you come to my club?' So it's really Knud's offer that brought me, ultimately, to this point—addressing you as your new club president.

"A year and a half ago, when I was elected as President for 2017-18, I made a commitment to this club and I am certainly going to try to honour that commitment.

"Our theme this year is 'Rotary: Making a Difference,' and I want to try and make a difference, not just to this club but to the community. I hope that as a club and as individuals we can all take part in sharing that.

"We have a new Board of Directors. I had planned to introduce them all tonight but half of them are not even here. The new member of our Board who is here is **Semi**. Taking over as our treasurer, she'll be working with Bill for a few months, so that we get a nice, smooth changeover in that important role.



"At the next Board meeting, on July 20th, I'm going to propose a restructuring of the Board. I want to change the format of the meetings a bit. We have one evening meeting per month now. It has been suggested that we have two evening meetings. Because it's a big change, with some members for it and some opposed, I will be calling every member and ask if they prefer a lunchtime meeting or an evening meeting. Then whatever the majority prefers, that's what I'll put to the Board. The Board can then discuss it and decide whether we stay as we are now with an evening meeting on the first Tuesday of the month and the rest lunchtime meetings, or whether we're going to make a change.

"I don't foresee any change happening until after the summer months, what with so many people on vacation and travelling.

"One of the things that I really want to do this year is go after the Presidential Citation [See link* below. *Ed.*]. I know we've not had one for the past couple of years, but I think this year's is very doable. We'll be working on that at the next Board meeting. Although Cameron and I filled in quite a few of the criteria, a lot of the decisions have to come from the Board or the members. There are choices of the things we can do. Some have to do with membership—thanks to Maureen I don't think we'll have any problems meeting those goals. Some have to do with Community—I'm pretty sure Brenda will be happy with the choices here, because we're already meeting most of those goals, too.

"The only thing I think we'll have to work on is the financial area and the giving to The Rotary Foundation. I'm going to ask **Bonnie Black** for some figures from last year, so I can see how many people are participating and determine if it's actually possible to get a ten percent increase. I don't want to waste time chasing goals that we can't achieve; I want to find the goals that we can achieve and build on that base, so that this year we can finally bring the Citation back to the club.

*<https://my.rotary.org/en/document/presidential-theme-and-rotary-citation-brochure-2017-18>

"Another thing—again, we talked a bit about this at the Board meeting—this is going to be an objective of mine. I'm not quite sure how I'm going to achieve this yet, but I'm going to give it a really good try. I want to engage our members in projects and activities. Brenda, I know you do a great job of engaging many of our members in Community. But there are many members who don't come to meetings, for whatever reasons, and I want to talk to people on an individual basis, see if I can encourage any of them to come back to the club. Maybe a social activity might encourage people, when they can bring their partners, their children and grandchildren. I want to have fun this year. I don't want it to be just being here for lunch and dinner. Nice though it is to see everyone, I'd really like to make a bigger difference in our community, and try to involve as many members as we can.

"I wonder if any of you has any ideas or suggestions to add. Oh, we have one already!"

Paulina said, "Sometimes in my club we take classes for an hour instead of having a meeting. And by the way, we bring our own food and we pay to enjoy it. It's another way to make a little money for charity. We also do a lottery or we play competitive games. We try to find ways to bring variety to our weekly meetings."

Helen continued, "It's time some of our newer members stepped forward, instead of relying on those seniors who have worked so hard over many years to bring us to the successful club we have become. But what about the future? We need to have newer members taking responsibility. Bringing new ideas to the Board, being part of one or more committees. That's why I want to call and encourage people. Even if they can't come to meetings, at least be part of something, some activity we will be doing this Rotary year.

"Another thing I want to do is get more involved with our Rotaract and Interact clubs. I plan to visit them personally this year. Perhaps I can get them to come to some of our evening meetings. That way they can see what we do as Rotarians and we can become more aware of what they're doing as Interactors and Rotaractors. I want to reach out and see if there is anything we can do to help them mature in their roles in the world of Rotary.

"I also want to get us more involved at the district level. I know Knud is very involved at the district level with his work on International. I have had just a taste of Rotary at the district level and I'd like to see more members of the club go to the District Conference at the end of September and to the District Training Assembly next spring. I'm going to produce a monthly calendar that will include not just events of our club but district events as well. For example, there are four District International Service meetings every year. It would be nice if four members of our International Service Committee would each go to one. The next one will be on Saturday, August 26th. You will learn more about Rotary by going to district level meetings than you can learn by confining your Rotary activity to the local level. You get to meet people just like you but from a different club, so they will bring a new perspective to your encounters with them—share ideas, get an insight into things you would never have thought of by yourself.

"I also want to look into a strategic plan for our club. This is an idea that **Cameron** suggested. Have we ever had a strategic plan in this club, does anyone know?"

Bill commented that we tried to develop a five-year strategic plan many years ago, but found it difficult to carry the specific objectives over from year to year.

"Perhaps we can have better luck if we develop a strategic plan for just one year and update it every year," Helen said.

"I'm also a person who likes to recognize the work of other people. There are many people in this club who do exceptional work in all kinds of different areas. So, on the first Tuesday of each month, at the evening meeting, I want to introduce an award called 'Rotarian-of-the-Month.' I'm going to recognize someone in the club for their exceptional performance.

"So, I'm looking forward to an exciting year. I'm pretty motivated myself but I'm also looking for new and fresh ideas as we all look forward to another successful Rotary year.

"Talking about recognition, I want to recognize what Kelly is about to do on Saturday and Sunday. She is going to do this Ride to Conquer Cancer. She set out looking for \$2,000 in sponsorships. A few days ago I saw on Facebook that she was already up to \$3,292 and counting! That is phenomenal! Can you tell us a bit about your upcoming feat, Kelly?"

"Well," **Kelly** said, "first I want to thank the club as well as individuals in the club for sponsoring me. You need to have sponsorships totalling at least \$2,500 before you can even enter the event. It's a 220-km bicycle trip from Montreal to Quebec City and we'll do 110 the first day, rest overnight, then finish the event on Sunday. It's a lot more than I've ever ridden in one day and then to repeat the feat the very next day! But, even before moving here, I have always tried to participate in any charity organization I can help with, especially one that has to do with cancer. So, I said to myself, I've never done anything like this before, but I'm going to give it a shot."

"How will you get back home?" she was asked. "My husband and the kids are going to drive to Quebec City, then we'll stay overnight in a hotel and come back home on Monday."

Before we sang O Canada, Helen had a little fun thing for us. On each table there was a floral centerpiece. Helen gave each table slips of paper with numbers 1 to however many people were sitting at that table and asked that they be distributed randomly to each person. Then she drew a number out of a hat and the person at each table with that number got to take home the floral centerpiece. A simple yet fun idea and, hopefully, a taste of things to come.