



# The Lakeshorian

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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## *This Week's Program...*

It's **Valentine's Day!** Bring your sweetie to our special meeting to celebrate Cupid's special day.

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...*

**Happy Anniversary, Steve & Margaret Moors...**

*... tomorrow, February 15<sup>th</sup>!*

**Happy Birthday, Mary Saad..... Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>!**

## *Future Programs...*

Feb 21: **Ashley Bock**, Beaconsfield High School, will tell us about her Adventure in the Environment in Cornwall.

Feb 28: **PDG Bill** will talk about Rotary International and our club, both of which just celebrated birthdays—RI on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and RCML on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mar 7: **[Evening meeting]** A joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Hudson and St-Lazare. It will be a **Sugaring Off Party** and it will take place at Auberge Gallant (address and map to follow). Cost: \$25 per person.

## *Special Events...*

June 2: (Friday) **Our Annual Auction**. In less than five months we will host our most important event of this Rotary year, that will provide the lion's share of the funding of our club's budget for 2017-2018.

## *Last Week's Meeting...*

It was our first evening meeting of the new regime—i.e. the first Tuesday of every month. It was also a day of treacherous winter road conditions, so some members who are usually present, such as **Cameron**, were obliged to follow the safer course of staying home.

Present were **Helen, Lawrence, Maureen, Kelly-Anne, Brahm, Bill, Murray, Knud, Brenda** and **Deniz**. We were also pleased to welcome Kelly's daughter **Sophie** and Brahm's dear wife, **Mara**, as well as visiting Rotarian **Mark Chau** of the Vieux-Montréal club.

**President-elect Helen** chaired our meeting—very capably, I might add, boding well for her presidency starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

She began by wishing Murray's wife, **Carol**, happy birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and **Bill** and **June** happy anniversary on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Among the announcements:

- **Brenda** told us the Community Service Committee would be going to the Welcome Hall Mission on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 1 till 3 pm. She invited anyone else who wished to participate in this hands-on volunteering opportunity to feel free.

There will most likely be another opportunity in March as well, she added.

- Asked if he had anything to say about our Auction, **Murray** said, "It's important, even crucial, to the financial success of this event that everyone get involved, like, right now! There are advertisers to be visited and urged to place a paid ad in our auction brochure, sales of tickets to affluent-auction-minded individuals who understand the charitable objectives of our club in organizing this fundraising event. And let's not forget that it's time to be collecting prizes. Refer to the list that **Knud** so kindly put together, or feel free to find something that Knud hadn't thought of.

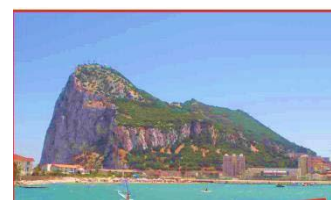
The 50/50 draw did not produce a winner, so this fine fundraiser will continue.

Kelly was introduced by **Maureen**. She said she was contacted by Kelly who told her she was a Rotarian in Singapore who had recently settled in Montreal and wanted to join our club. She added, however, that she had a job and a family, so lunchtime meetings would be a problem for a while. Maureen told her it was not a problem for us and welcomed her to join us for our monthly evening meetings.

Our program was billed as a Rotary Classification Talk, which usually refers to a presentation about one's job, but in **Kelly-Anne's** case, it turned out to be about her adventurous life of globe-trotting, in her job and as a Rotarian.

**Kelly** began by pointing out that all the photos in her talk were pics she had taken herself, "so no danger of copyright infringement," she quipped.

"I grew up in Gibraltar, pictured here. It's a British Territory in the south of Spain, so we speak both English and Spanish, English for everything official and Spanish when we talk to our neighbours in a bar.



"It's very small, population 30,000 people. They're a big mix; a third of all Gibraltarians are descendants of Maltese originally, and then you have a big mix of Italian, Spanish, English and Genoese.

"I'm part Italian on my father's side, while my mother's side is an English and Spanish mix. Typically Christmas dinner is English roast turkey and stuffing, Spanish starter and dessert.

"My hobbies: dogs were a big thing though as a child I was not permitted to have a dog of my own. So I grew up taking out other people's dogs and I'm still very involved in showing dogs. That's what got me into photography. And I have always enjoyed technology which led to my business life.

"Professionally, I have my BSc in Computer Science, earned in England (which I thought I'd never use, since I wanted to train guide dogs for a living). Later I added a post-graduate diploma in Education from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, so I

could teach people about technology, which I find much more satisfying than writing software for people.

"My work experience involves a lot of web design, databases, a wide variety of programming languages used around the world. Then I settled into teaching, more about that later.

"In '98 I returned to Gibraltar and started my own business, Glide Technologies Limited, doing design (websites and databases), software and App development and computer programming for small businesses, But we also took it upon ourselves to do work for local charities—Rotarians, Lions clubs—website design mostly, and of course we did it for free."

She told us her father was a charter member of the Lions Club of Gibraltar and her mother joined that club a couple of years after it started.

She showed us an article entitled, "Glide into cyberspace," which appeared in The Gibraltar Magazine.

"I was at a stage where I had started a family so I worked primarily from a home-based office."

Kelly showed us ten examples of websites she designed and she told us about several of them Four are shown here



"In 2007 we moved to Singapore. The plan was to spend six months in a French-speaking country. Then we ended up in Singapore for eight years! When we got there we said we'd stay for two years, then it was another two, and another two and after eight years we said to ourselves, 'If we don't get away now 're going to be stuck here.'"



The Singapore Skyline

She showed us pictures of the Singapore skyline and the giant Ferris wheel called the Singapore Flyer, designed to be larger and taller than the London Eye

She told us an interesting anecdote about the Flyer. When it was first built it was designed to turn in a certain direction, which had it moving away from the Fountain of Wealth, so they changed it to the opposite direction so it would appear to be bringing wealth to Singapore rather than taking it away.

"They were very into Feng Shui in Singapore," she added.

Kelly described the Chinese New Year celebration, including the

Lion Dance, Yu Sheng (the traditional meal intended to bring good fortune), the Chingay Parade (the largest parade of street performers and floats in all of Asia)—Kelly told us you can buy tickets to the parade, tickets to the dress rehearsal of the parade and tickets to the "dress rehearsal of the dress rehearsal" of the parade!

She showed us slides she took of the Deepavali, the Festival of Lights; Malay Dancing, since Singapore is joined to Malaysia.

She described the Balinese and Indonesian Theatre and all the plays and the dances that are part of that.

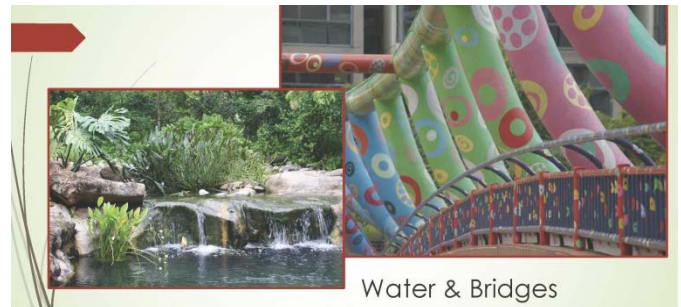
She showed us photos she had taken of places of worship, Buddhist temples including a very famous one called the Tooth Relic Temple, which she described as having, "lots of bright colours, a great place to take photos."

She took lovely pictures of churches, including one she said was struck by lightning, not once but three times! "Each time it was extensively damaged and each time it was rebuilt.

"While I was in Singapore I used to go out just to take photos."

We saw Parakan houses, with living quarters on top and the owner's shop or café on the ground floor.

Other pics included lovely bridges, including her favourite, the Arch Bridge, shown here:



Water & Bridges

Kelly talked about the Fountain of Wealth, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest fountain in the world. "It's located in a large shopping mall, designed as a left hand, because you give with your left hand and receive with your right."

Other photos she had taken and included in her slide show, were pics of tropical animals, including a pink dolphin, Chinese panda, and a crocodile; bugs including spiders and dragonflies; and flowers including several varieties of orchids.

We saw a slide of beautiful islands surrounding Singapore, one connected by a rope bridge and another showing a lovely tropical island coral beach, complete with palm tree.

"You have to be careful in Singapore. They're very picky about a lot of things with large fines for disobeying the rules.

Kelly closed her presentation with pics and discussion of her teaching career, which began in Singapore, volunteering at a school library that she helped redesign and redecorate for elementary school children. Her first teaching job was at Chatsworth International School in Singapore where she had a boring job of invigilating exams. "You couldn't do anything so I spent my time drawing pictures of kids writing exams. My first actual teaching job was with 5-year-olds. I also taught at the Australian International School for a while and then we came here, where I teach databases and e-commerce at John Abbott College.

"I've also signed up for the Ride to Conquer Cancer, a cycling event in July, from here to Quebec City.

Bill thanked Kelly for a fascinating life story. "I don't know how you managed to do so much a still remain so young."