



# The Lakeshorian

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Rotary



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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

**Murray** will chair a discussion on *how to make our public speaking contest even better.*

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

*.. none that we know of.*

## ***Future Programs...***

- May 23: **Wendy Sherry**, RN, BSN, MN, will talk to us about *Saving Lives through Organ Donation.*
- May 30: **Club Assembly.**
- June 6: [Evening] **Bill** will present *A Musical History of Jazz.*

## ***Special Events...***

- May 25: (Thursday) **RMCL Board Meeting.**
- June 2: (Friday) **Our Annual Auction.** In only 17 days we will host our most important fundraising event of this Rotary year. This year's auction will provide the lion's share of financing for our club's **charitable projects** in 2017-2018.
- July 8: (Saturday) **Changeover Party**, Baie-D'Urfé Curling Club, 3-8 pm, \$30/person. Cash bar available.

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

Last Tuesday's meeting was one of those delicious occasions that make you feel good all over.

It was an opportunity for Community Service Chair, **Brenda**, to help us share our blessings as Rotarians with an organization that does some wonderful things in and for our community.

And our Youth Service Chair, **Murray**, also had a pleasant task, to present our first annual **Amcal Rotary Leadership Award** to a very special young lady.

Present, in addition to **Brenda** and **Murray**, to enjoy the occasion were: **Wayne**, President-elect **Helen**, **Lawrence**, **Maureen**, **Kelly-Anne**, **Stan**, PDG **Bill**, President **JP**, **Steve**, **Anne**, **Knud**, **Emily**, **Cameron**, **Deniz** and Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell**.

We were also pleased to welcome, as guests of the club, **Marie-France Juneau**, Executive Director of NOVA West Island, **Sophie Dalbec**, Executive Director of Amcal Family Services, **Delia Noel**, Amcal's Coordinator of Family Services and Residential Program, **Victoria Marcoux**, age 15, graduate of Amcal's Leadership Program, and her mother, **Joanne Dumaine**.

**President JP**, who resides in the area of the West Island that is severely affected by the rising flood waters of Rivière-des-Prairies, appealed for any assistance we can provide to his

neighbours and so many others who desperately need our help. "When they open the door to their back yard, it's like a huge pool," he told us. "If the water continues to rise by even a foot, hundreds more will be stranded, surrounded by water. Already many people have taken refuge in a local church. Near the corner of Gouin Boulevard and Château Pierrefonds Avenue at nine o'clock at night I saw between 50 and 100 people walking. Obviously their homes were flooded and you could see despair in their eyes. It was terrible. Anything you guys can do to help will be really appreciated."

He went on to welcome our visitors and special guests, then offered Happy Birthday wishes to **Murray**, and **Marie-Josée Raboison**, a member of our club by virtue of her membership in our former satellite, Club Rotary Saint-Laurent.

**Knud** distributed packages containing 40 copies of a flyer describing a few of the many exciting experiences and other great items that will be available to bidders who come to our auction at the Holiday Inn on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. He urged us all to take as many stacks of flyers as we could pass out to our friends, neighbours and local business outlets, after adding the date and place of the auction across the top of the flyer. This important detail had been unfortunately omitted from the original flyer. **Kelly-Anne** said she would make a pdf version, with date, time and place, available for emailing to our e-contact lists. [That pdf is now available on our club's [website](#) and will soon be on our [Facebook page](#), managed by **Paula**, as well as on a new [RCML Auction Facebook page](#) that has been created by **Kelly-Anne**. *Ed.*] **Knud** also urged members to take extra stacks of auction flyers and give them to members who have difficulty to make our noon meetings, so they can also help to publicize our auction.

**Brenda** thanked **Bill** "for posting pics I sent of our Community Service volunteers at *The Teapot* in Lachine, helping to set up and serve a cabane-à-sucre meal to 100 seniors, Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. We were 5: **Rosie**, **Maria**, **Deniz**, **Angelita** and me.



"During the last week of April we were very busy. On the 24<sup>th</sup> **Rosie** and I participated in a Volunteer Appreciation Day at Volunteer West Island and on the 26<sup>th</sup> **Rosie**, **Angelita** and I attended a similar event hosted by the Welcome Hall Mission. Our club volunteered at the *Défi Sportif AlterGo*, a multi-venue sports event for 5,000 intellectually and physically handicapped individuals, as well as the hearing-impaired, from all over the

world. **Cameron, Rosie** and I worked there on April 28<sup>th</sup> and hopefully we'll go back next year, with more volunteers.

Brenda also told us there are a lot of opportunities coming up for Community Service volunteering. "The Welcome Hall Mission will have a desperate need all summer. They have a food bank and a new arrangement, like a grocery store, where their clients can take a shopping cart and choose whatever they need.

"The **Duck Race** for the **Lakeshore Hospital Foundation** will be happening, and I'll have more info on that in the near future. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, **Chez Cora** on Hymus just east of St-Jean Boulevard is offering a free breakfast if you buy at least one duck for \$10.

"On June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 we'll be going to the **Old Brewery Mission**. We'll need to be about 12 volunteers.

"There is also an organization that drives seniors and others who need a support system to get them to doctors' appointments, et cetera. If you or your spouse is interested, get in touch with me and I'll connect you with the people involved."

**Knud** purchased two Chromebook computers, to be paid for out of the International Service Committee budget. He told us he has them in his car and would be taking them to the Hawkesbury Rotary Club meeting that evening to give to **Jean-de-Dieu Tshileu**, to take back to the DRC, where they will be used mainly to access the Internet.

**Cameron** and **Knud** finalized arrangements for our club's participation in this year's **Walk for the Rotary Foundation** scheduled to take place in Cornwall on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Brenda** returned to the podium to present a donation to **NOVA West Island's** Executive Director, **Marie-France Juneau**. "They are a very necessary organization in our community," Brenda said. "Perhaps a family member has benefited from their services. One day we, too, may require a visit from a NOVA nurse."



Marie France thanked us on behalf of NOVAWI's patients and their families. "As of April 1<sup>st</sup> we had to close all of our foot care clinics in the community, because we don't have the 'womanpower' (all of our nurses are women). Our nurses were providing foot care, palliative care and cancer care in the home. When I started seven years ago, we had 129 patients. We had 192 a few weeks back, so we and our Board had to make hard decisions where to use our resources.

"I have a bit of trivia for you. Can anyone guess how much revenue we get from our five thrift shops—three in Sainte-Anne, one in Beaconsfield and one in Kirkland?"

Brenda guessed \$500,000. "\$540,000 last year," Marie-France told us. "Their next half-price sale will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>."

**Murray** was our next speaker on this varied program. He began by thanking **Knud** and **Kelly-Anne**, and the other members of our auction committee for all their hard work. He also thanked everyone who contributed prizes and items to be auctioned or who managed to get auction items donated by our local businesses.

"The other reason I'm up here is to perform a very pleasant task. About six months ago, after we had a talk by **Sophie Dalbec** and **Delia Noel** about what Amcal Family Services does, we had a discussion at a Board meeting that resulted in the creation of an **Amcal-Rotary Leadership Award** to recognize contribution to the Amcal community of youth and families as well as contribution to the community at large."

He called Sophie and Delia to come up, as well as **Victoria Marcoux** and her Mom and **Deniz** and **Cameron**, members of our Youth Committee, which Murray chairs.

He then presented Victoria with a plaque and a certificate. The plaque, he said, has room for future recipients of this leadership, "but your name, Victoria, is the first one on the plaque. The framed certificate is for you alone, to take home. And we also have a cheque for \$100 for you to do with as you wish.



"Her story is incredible, of family support and of the maturity shown by this young lady of only 15 years old. Delia, would you please tell us more."



**Delia Noel** said, "Sophie and I were excited to be partners with the Rotary club to create this leadership award," and she asked Victoria to tell us what brought her to Amcal.

"I was struggling with my family," **Victoria** said, "and I was also struggling with drugs to try and suppress my emotions. That got me into a lot of trouble at the end of the day. And I was no longer communicating with my parents and completely avoiding a lot of other things I should have been doing."

Delia asked her to summarize her time in the residential program and tell us what impacted her the most.

"The best part about it was the group effort and the group support," Victoria recalled. "Everything that everybody does has an impact on everybody else in the residence, and not only on the teens but on the staff as well. They don't like punishing us but they have to do what they have to do. So, I was helped by the constant support from the staff, too."

"And tell us what you have done for the community and for the teens at Amcal post your stay with us," Delia asked her.

"Well, I'm in the Air Cadet program, so I do volunteer work with them. And I started a support group just for teenagers. You can speak freely because you don't have to worry about having adults around. It's a perfect way to support each other."

Delia said, "Victoria runs this program. She put it together; she had to apply for a grant, a really fantastic effort on her part, very professional. We're very proud of Victoria."