



# The Lakeshorian

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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2017

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

**NO ROTARY CLUB MEETING TODAY** (Easter break).

There may, however, be one or two committee meetings. Committee members, please check your emails.

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

*Happy birthday, Wayne..... Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>!*

*Happy birthday, Amiel..... Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>!*

*Happy birthday, Sacit..... Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>!*

*Happy birthday, Abie..... Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>!*

## *Future Programs...*

Apr 25: **Club Assembly.** Club Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs are reminded to send copies of their latest reports to all club members prior to this meeting.

May 2: **[Evening Meeting] Emily** will present our **Alan Liddiard Memorial Public Speaking Contest**, an annual event that becomes more popular every year.

May 9: We will present the first **Amcal Rotary Award** to an Amcal Family Services graduate.

## *Special Events...*

Apr 22-23: **ART EXPO**, Fritz Farm, 20477 Bord-du-lac, Baie d'Urfé, 10h — 17h : Art show and sale by Lakeshore Ass'n of Artists, for the benefit of NOVA West Island.

June 2: (Friday) **Our Annual Auction.** In less than seven weeks 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 projects in 2017-2018.

July 8: (Saturday) **Changeover Party** at the Baie-D'Urfé Curling Club, 3-8 pm, \$30/person. Cash bar available.

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

Our speaker was Rotarian **Jean de Dieu Tshileu**, from the **Rotary Club of Mbuji-Mayi** in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.

Thirteen members present were **Wayne, President-elect Helen, Lawrence, Maureen, Rosie, Stan, PDG Bill, President JP, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Cameron** and **Deniz**.

**David Warne**, Past President of the Hudson and St-Lazare club, and Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell** were also present.

**JP** chaired the meeting. He told us that our Changeover will take place at the Baie d'Urfé Curling Club on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 8 pm. Cost will be \$30 per person and there will be a cash bar available.

**Helen** had a presentation to make.

At the District Training Assembly on April 8<sup>th</sup> she was pleased to report that she had accepted a banner attesting that our club had been declared a 100% Foundation Giving Club for 2015-16. She presented the banner to **Cameron** who served as our President last year.



She told us that a 100% Foundation Giving Club has given an amount to The Rotary Foundation equal to or greater than an average of \$100 USD per capita with 100% participation by all dues-paying members.

**Cameron** reminded us that our evening meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> would be our **Alan Liddiard Memorial Public Speaking Contest**. He told us that four schools had already signed up to provide a student contestant and two more are in the process of selecting suitable students to compete. "Our Head Judge will be a member of the Toastmasters and I need two more judges. How about you, David?" **David Warne** agreed to be a judge and Cameron asked, "Any member who wishes to be a judge please contact me."

He also had another announcement. "Our District Foundation Walk will take place in Cornwall on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Cornwall Sunrise club. I already have four people who say they are coming. In the past we have been very active in prior Foundation Walks. We have even won the prize as the club with the most members participating in the walk. I'd like to see us do that again this year. Put the date on your calendar and get back to me by our meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> so I can give them our number by the May 10<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Brenda** listed upcoming Community Service opportunities:

- "We'll be delivering Easter Chocolates to the DBV residents on April 20<sup>th</sup>."
- "Volunteer West Island will celebrate 50 years of service during National Volunteer Week April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Rosie and I will be going to their volunteer appreciation day on the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Dorval Community Centre."
- "Welcome Hall Mission will also be having a volunteer appreciation event and I believe we'll be going to that as well."
- "Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, Cameron, Rosie and I will be volunteering at the Défi Sportif AlterGo international competitions for athletes with all types of disabilities."

**Maureen** won the right to try to find the Ace of Spades and win our 50/50 pot. Unfortunately the card she overturned was the Seven of Diamonds so the pot will keep on growing.

**President JP** introduced our guest speaker, **Jean de Dieu Tshileu**, from the Rotary Club of Mbuji-Mayi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "He will speak to us today about his work in Kasai and the current political situation in the DRC.

"He is the founder of the Congo Village School Project that promotes sports development, education and sustainable agriculture in rural Kasai. He also promotes English language and computer training in Eastern Kasai.

"He comes from the Katanga Province. For those who remember the cold war in the sixties there was a big incident in Katanga, a very rich area because of the mines.

"Jean was taken to Rwanda for his safety and later, when the second Congo civil war broke out he was forced to leave the country and spent several years in the United States, studying at Sociology, finance and economics at Eastern Mennonite University in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It was there that he got the idea for what would later become the Congo Village School Project, which is an attempt to improve the quality of village life through education, farming and sports.

"Now he lives in an Mbuji-Mayi, a city of over three million population and the capital of Kasai-Orientale province. He teaches English and basic computer skills.

"Of note, Jean was one of 115 young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa who were invited in 2010 to discuss with US President Obama the vision for transforming their society over the next fifty years."

**Jean** had brought with him a very informative and well-illustrated PowerPoint on the **Congo Village School Project**, which he augmented with stories and anecdotes.

He told us that after his graduation from Eastern Mennonite University, he decided to go back to the Congo and launch the Congo Village School Project, to help rural Congolese women and men to create just, healthy and sustainable communities through education, agriculture and sports.

He said the key to the program is to use sports to mobilize the community toward the goal of promoting education.

"In the area where we live, women have a big problem. Our culture does not accord value to women, especially in rural areas. I was concerned that it would not be possible for me to start promoting education for women.

"So I decided to use sports as a catalytic agent to diminish the discrimination toward women. To do that we created mixed teams—boys and girls—to play football and basketball. As they play together in the field, they start to get used to the idea that both sexes have a role to play and the team that makes the best use of all team members will win the game. The idea was to take that mutual respect learned in sports to the next level, education.

"We built schools in our remote area of the DRC, to provide a basic education in English, and ensure the continuity of education for all.

"Since in rural areas there is no banking, no industry, not even any companies we had to reconcile ourselves to the fact that we need to use advanced knowledge and technology to boost agricultural production in our area. We had to help rural populations move from subsistence farming to micro-economic development. Eventually the quality of life would be better. So that was the plan.

"In 2011 we set up soccer and basketball fields, introducing the idea that women and girls would wear the same team clothing (We didn't actually have team uniforms) as the men and boys wore.

"And we carried this idea into the schoolhouse that we built, hiring teachers who spoke English, with the vision of giving our rural young people of both sexes the chance to expand their horizon. By adding the ability to communicate in English as well as in French, which is the norm in the DRC, we were aiming to give our students the opportunity to go to university or to get jobs in many more places in the world.

"In order to boost our farming production even further, we decided to buy cows. The cows we bought were in south Kenya so we sent three boys from the village there for seven months to get trained in the care and feeding and milking of cows. We bought ten cows and the boys had to walk them home, a distance of over 2,500 kilometers, all the while having to explain to every policeman who stopped them that the cows were indeed their property.

"Another major problem in rural Eastern Kasai where we lived is water. To fetch water you have to walk five miles, and the boys had to make that trip with cows in tow.

"So, to get around this major water problem we created The Water Project. In 2012, with the help of the Mennonite community and the Rotary club in Woodstock, Vermont, we rented a drilling rig and brought it to our village. We picked a site and started drilling but at a depth of 40 meters we hit bedrock. So we had to send the rig back to the US without having succeeded.

"In 2013 we rented a bigger machine, in Mbuji-Mayi and started drilling in a better place. We found water at a depth of 80 meters but we decided to go deeper, to have more reserve. Unfortunately, at a depth of 93 meters, at 3 AM, the machine broke. We could not repair the machine and we could not get it running even to bring the drill back out. So it is still just sitting there. So now The Water Project is on hold while we try to find another way to get a source of water.

"My next project was in the city of Mbuji-Mayi, where I decided to give city people the opportunity to learn English, to improve their education for tourism and business development. I created the Eastern Kasai English Language Institute, Eka-ELI for that purpose, and there we also teach basic computer skills with a view to reducing the existing technology gap.

"Through the Eka-ELI office we continue to help at the rural area school, using Khan Academy, an organization dedicated to global education that is free and for everyone. You can find all kinds of lessons in every imaginable field: math, science and engineering, arts and humanities, computing, economics and finance." [Check it out at <https://khanacademy.org>. Ed.]

Jean went on to show us photos\* of his rural community in Eastern Kasai province. He also had videos illustrating how he is succeeding beyond expectations. He also offered to answer questions...and there were many questions, always an indication that a speaker has been very successful

**Maureen** thanked Jean, telling him, "I could listen to you for ages. I am so pleased you contacted us to arrange to speak to us today. I admire you so much for what you are doing. Please keep educating the girls."

\*You can find these photos appended to the version of this issue on our website:



[www.rotarymontreallakeshore.org](http://www.rotarymontreallakeshore.org) and click on The Lakeshorian





1/8

CONJUG

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1/5	3/5	1/5	4/5	2/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5
1/5	3/5	1/5	4/5	2/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5
1/5	3/5	1/5	4/5	2/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5

$6 + 72 = 78$

$2 \times 10 + 3 = 23$

$47 \times 25 = 1175$

$51 \times 16 = 816$

$41 + 30 = 71$

$72 - 6 = 66$

$10 + 3 = 13$

$11 + 16 = 27$

$17 + 5 = 22$

$82 + 16 = 98$

$A7 + J2 = 1$

