



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



Rotary

The Lakeshorian

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

Chartered February 27, 1961

Vol. 2017-18

Issue No. 03

Tuesday

July 18

2017

This Week's Program...

Emily has invited her fellow countryman and very good friend, award-winning photographer **Tony Hadley**, to entertain us on the Holiday Inn's big screen. A meeting not to be missed!

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

...None that we know of.

Future Programs...

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.

Aug 8: 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.

Oct. 20: (Friday) All Rotarians are invited to enjoy a special luncheon in Hartford, Connecticut, featuring **RI President Ian Risely** and **Sylvia Whitlock**, Rotary's first woman club president (RC Duarte, CA), \$45 (USD) per person. See **Bill** for details.

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.

Last Week's Meeting...

Maricarmen Raudales, HPIC's Senior Director, Programs, and **Catherine Sharouty**, Program Manager, presented an excellent PowerPoint, ***Bringing Hope through Health***.

We were pleased to welcome 14 Active Members: **Helen, Rosie, Sacit, Kelly-Anne, Stan, Bob Habib, Bill, Murray, Anne, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Deniz** and **Joe Zemanovich**.

We were also pleased to welcome **Glorefe Kozma**, already a Rotarian and a member of a club in the Philippines, who has moved to Montreal's West Island and is considering transferring her membership to our club.

President Helen assured us that every member was welcome to attend every meeting. "If you can arrive on time, that would be awesome; but if you can't be here on time you are welcome to arrive when you can."

She wished our absent Past President, **JP**, a Happy Birthday and told us that one of our speakers, **Catherine**, would be celebrating her birthday on Wednesday, the 12th, so we wished her a Happy Birthday as well.

Helen also had two sad announcements: "Both **Ted Khal** and **Meta Castagner** (widow of **Jules**) have to be moved into palliative care. Please keep them both in your prayers."

Murray had a riddle from his nine-year-old grandson: "What occurs once a minute, twice in every moment but never in a year. The answer, **Kelly** told us, is the letter M.

He next had everyone stand. Then he flipped two coins three times in succession. After the first flip, which landed with two heads up, all who guessed two tails or a head and a tail had to sit down. New coin flip, new guesses: landed a head and a tail (all who guessed otherwise sat down). Third flip: two tails. The last person standing was **Glorefe**, who won \$20.

Brenda announced that she would be leading a team of 12 to 14 people to the Welcome Hall Mission on Thursday, August 3rd, from 12:30 to 4 pm, to help with a food bank. "It's a fun activity; I recommend that everybody try it at least once.

"We're going back to the Old Brewery Mission on Thursday, September 21st, from 4 to 6:30. If you have never been to the OBM, plan to arrive at 3:30 for a tour. Afterwards we will enjoy a supper in Chinatown.

"We will have a speaker from the West Island Mission at the end of August. They have asked us to help them load up schoolbags with Back-to-School supplies, on Friday, August 11th. This year the number enrolled to receive their help is up to 220 families, with a total of 455 school-age children. I'll have more details as the date gets closer."

Anne won the 50/50, giving her the right to search for the Ace of Spades but she found the Two of Clubs instead.

Asked to tell us about her Ride to Conquer Cancer, **Kelly** told us she cycled 107 km the first day, overnights in Trois-Rivières and completed the journey to Québec City the next day, a total distance of about 132 km. "There were 1,100 riders in total who started the event. Not everybody finished. The start of the race was delayed by rain and the rain continued the next day, so there were several accidents. In total 4.1 million dollars was raised [applause], and all of that goes to the Segal Cancer Centre of the Jewish General Hospital, where it will help fund research into new cancer treatments that are less invasive and with fewer side effects. Thanks to club support and that of members, friends and family, I managed to raise \$3,700 [more applause]. It was lovely to be a part of it—the opening ceremonies and inspirational speakers—most of the riders were either cancer survivors or riders who had lost somebody to cancer or had a family member or friend going through treatment at the moment. One of the riders was partially-sighted so she was riding a tandem bicycle with a guide. It was good to see that even people who have disabilities can still help others.

"I have been training since January and I've been logging the training distances into my spreadsheet. In all it shows that I did 1,800 kilometers during my training. I thought the event was

going to be very tough going but I made better time than I thought--5½ hours on the first day and 6½ on the second day, so I was averaging 20 km per hour. On the second day it became quite hilly, so that was a struggle. Two of the hills got the better of me—I had to get off and push—but the rest I managed to do. I'm going to do it again next year, hopefully with a group which is more fun. Thanks again for your support."

Bill had a short story for us. "You've all heard the blonde jokes and the lawyer jokes; well, this one is about a blonde *and* a lawyer. They found themselves sitting side by side on a plane. The lawyer thought he'd make small talk with the blonde, so he suggested they entertain each other with a little quiz. 'We each ask the other a question and if you don't know the answer you pay the other 5 dollars.' 'No, thanks,' said the blonde. 'I just want to relax.'

'If you ask a question I don't have the answer to, I'll give you 10 dollars,' the lawyer suggested. 'No, thanks,' she replied.

'Twenty dollars?' 'No.' 'Fifty?' 'No.'" 'Okay, how about this—I will give you \$100 for any question you ask me that I can't answer.' 'Okay,' said the blonde. 'Let's get this over with.'

"Good,' said the lawyer. I'll go first. What is the distance between the earth and the sun?' The blonde gave him \$5.

"My turn,' she said. "What goes up the hill on four legs and comes down on five?"

Well, the lawyer was stumped. He asked his colleagues sitting across the aisle but they didn't know the answer either. He pulled out his laptop and surfed the Net, but none of his search engines had the answer. Finally, he gave up and gave the blonde a \$100 bill and asked, "So what's the answer?"

She gave him another \$5 bill.

Stan introduced our guest speaker. "**Maricarmen Raudales** is with Health Partners International of Canada. I do know a bit about Health Partners. Many years ago my next door neighbour, Al McDonald, was Marketing Manager for Merck Frosst. He told me they often get calls from doctors who are going on a trip and they want drugs to take along for a doctor friend in the other country. He said the drugs would get lost or end up in the wrong hands and get sold illegally, Then he told me about Health Partners and how they now control the distribution of pharmaceuticals throughout the world. Maricarmen is here today to tell us how HPIC is doing these days.

Maricarmen began by thanking us for making Catherine and herself feel so welcome and among friends.

Using a well-illustrated PowerPoint, she painted a picture of the developing countries today, in terms of alarming statistics:

- More than 65 million people around the world are displaced from their homes. In refugee camps there are outbreaks of communicable diseases and difficulties managing chronic illness. Dangers of pregnancy and childbirth are amplified.
- WHO (World Health Organization) tells us that at least 800 women die every day during pregnancy or childbirth. Most could have been prevented with timely interventions. In Kenya, for example, 1 in 42 mothers die during childbirth, compared to 1 in 8,800 in Canada!
- In West Africa people with mental illness are thought to be possessed by demons or involved in witchcraft. They are often chained to a tree, left naked and abandoned. Yet, with the right medicine, significant improvements can be seen within days. Some who have recovered work in mental health centres, helping others. HPIC provides psychotropic medication through a Canadian partner to an African association that runs 16 centres for mental illness patients in Bénin, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Togo.

- In developing countries an estimated 2 billion people lack access to life-saving medicines; healthcare workers cannot adequately respond to their patients' needs. The World Bank estimates that more than 40% of Guatemala's population live in poverty, with no access to basic healthcare services or essential medicine.
- More than 170,000 children in developing countries are born with cleft lip or palate. They are often malnourished because they have trouble feeding. The defect also hinders speech, so many cannot attend school or find work.

Maricarmen asked, "What do the people in the illustrations that accompanied the above statistics have in common? They have all been given hope and restored to health through the work of HPIC and its partners. Founded in 1990, HPIC provides over 1 million treatments every year, working in over 50 countries around the world.



"We equip medical missions with over 700 Humanitarian Medical Kits. Like a pharmacy in a box, each HMK contains \$6,000 worth of products donated by Canada's pharmaceutical industry, and provides for 600 treatments. A kit, packed in two hand-carried boxes, delivers vital medicines and health supplies to humanitarian or medical mission teams. An HMK allows a team to create a functioning clinic anywhere, even a remote mountain village. Each HMK weighs 50 pounds and contains everything a medical team would need, from antibiotics to vitamins and other medical supplies.

"Since that first emergency response in Iran in 1990, HPIC has developed a solid reputation and expertise in responding to emergency situations around the world. In 2016 alone, HPIC responded to the refugee crisis throughout the Middle East, the yellow fever outbreak in Angola, earthquakes in Ecuador and Nepal and the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. In 2016 HPIC mobilized enough medicine to provide treatment to about 215,000 people in emergency situations.

"HPIC receives quality, in-dated medicines from a network of 70 donor companies in the pharmaceutical industry. We make these medicines available to 26 registered aid agencies, groups and associations. To do this we rely on hundreds of volunteers, students and health professionals, travelling in teams or individually to offer healthcare services around the world."

How can we help? "Volunteer, carry an HMK, knit, crochet or sew, tell others about HPIC, support HPIC on social media, or donate (sponsor a kit, support HPIC during emergencies or donate to special projects)."

Maricarmen answered many questions from an enthralled audience. She told us that she had been a Rotaractor in her native Honduras and that her uncle is a Rotarian.

Maricarmen and Catherine were thanked by **Murray**, who commented on the similarity of purpose between HPIC and Rotary. "The statistics I found mindboggling! On behalf of our club I want to thank you, not only for an excellent presentation but for the amazing work that HPIC does around the world for those less fortunate than we are here in Canada."

