



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

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Rotary



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

[Evening meeting] **Nathan Zsombor-Murray**, 14-year-old boy wonder of the diving world, will talk about his recent successes, at the **Fina World Aquatic Championships** in Budapest, July 14-22, and at the **Junior Elite National Diving Championships** in Montreal July 20-23.

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

***Happy Birthday, Maureen ..... Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>!***

***Happy Birthday, Knud ..... Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>!***

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

Aug 8: T.B.D.

Aug 15: **Ryan Rowe**, Global Peace Ambassador, will talk about the **Global Peace Index**, which monitors the progress of peace in countries around the world.

Aug 22: 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 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 fundraising event of the fall. We're counting on YOU to sell lots of tickets this year as we aim to match last year's amazing success.

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

Seventeen members were present for **Albane Gaudissart's** talk about *The TATU Project* which facilitates sustainable development for rural communities in Northern Tanzania.

We were pleased to welcome **Wayne, Lawrence, Rosie, Kelly-Anne, Stan, Bill, Semi, Steve, Anne, Sade, Sola, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Cameron** and **Joe Zemanovich**, as well as **Glorefe Kozma**, whose former club in the Philippines has confirmed that she was in good standing with that club. We were also pleased to welcome Brenda's Dad, **Victor**.

We were also pleased to welcome our auctioneer-par-excellence, **Scott Kessler**, who was present only briefly, to receive a donation for one of his favourite charities, The Estate of Matthew Schreindorfer.

In the absence of President **Helen**, who was taken ill, Club Secretary **Cameron** presided over our meeting.

As **Scott** had a conflicting appointment that required his presence, Cameron asked **Lawrence** to take over the podium briefly in order to present Scott with a donation.

Scott had requested that our donation take the form of a contribution to **The Estate of Matthew Schreindorfer**, which is raising money for research into lifesaving treatments for cancer patients.

"Matthew was a close friend of my wife's brother, Scott said. "He and his wife, Katia Luciani, were married in 2014. Shortly after their honeymoon he became ill. After a battery of tests to define his illness, Matthew was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a rare but aggressive form of blood cancer. Unfortunately, the treatment he required to fight this form of cancer was not offered in Canada. The treatment was offered in the US but was extremely expensive. His wife, who works in marketing, organized a fundraising campaign that, amazingly, raised \$810,000 in ten days! Matthew went to the US and got the treatment and it worked. His cancer went into remission. He was going back for follow-up treatments every three weeks. After six weeks had passed, however, his cancer returned and in February he succumbed to the disease.

"I asked what I could do, and his family told me they were setting up a foundation to raise money to bring this treatment to Canada. Thank you very much for this contribution toward that foundation."



The next order of club business was to welcome **Glorefe Kozma** to the club, and Past President Cameron did so with his usual aplomb, presenting her with her Rotary Club badge, and assuring her that she was a welcome addition to our club.

Glorefe's classification is Nursing.

She and her daughter, Anastasia, have participated in several volunteer activities already, including Shakespeare in the Park and selling Duck Race tickets for Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation.

**Brenda** thanked Glorefe for volunteering. She also reviewed the list of upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- **Welcome Hall Mission**, Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, to work in their food bank, from 12:30 to 4. **Rosie, Wayne, Deniz** and **Brenda** have signed up. Others are also welcome.

- **West Island Mission**, Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, to fill school back packs, from 6 to 8 pm.
- **Welcome Hall Mission**, Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, to fill school back packs, from noon to 5 pm. She reminded us that this will be a 'big deal' event, with media coverage.

She told us that NOVA will host their annual golf tournament on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at Beaconsfield Golf Club. "They made \$90,000 last year! They charge \$500 per golfer, so do the math. If anyone is interested I can forward the email with all the details."

**Lawrence** introduced our speaker, **Albane Gaudissart**, and asked her to begin by telling us a bit about herself. She told us she has been "living in Canada for a few years, while working in Africa, mainly in Tanzania where, with another partner, we founded an organization that we have been running for 4 years.

"I've also been working with Doctors Without Borders for the past two years. Two weeks ago I came home from the DRC where, I hear, you might do something in the future. I spent a year there doing HR coordination. It's a beautiful country.

"I was also proud to be a Rotarian in Tanzania and I brought a pennant from The Rotary Club of Moshi in the Kilimanjaro region." She gave the pennant to Cameron.

"That is also the region of Tanzania where our organization, TATU Project, is based.

"I will tell you a bit about our organization and what we do. Later I will explain briefly why I came here to your club."

With the help of a 35-slide PowerPoint presentation, Albane did precisely that. Based on the belief that change comes from the people, they start by questioning, studying and sharing with a community and its members. They recognize the dignity of the individual and the group and rely on empowerment and education to achieve a rich and sustainable environment, by developing the innate capabilities of the community.

They began in two villages, Mitsu Wa Tembo (which actually translates as forest of elephants) and Londoto. Both are in an isolated area of the Manyara region in north-eastern Tanzania. It's a rural, mixed-culture community of about 7,000 inhabitants, relying primarily on agriculture.

The TATU Project 15-year plan involves:

- Working with the community to get projects off to a good start;
- Stimulating development through an inclusive approach;
- Finalizing the integration of the community in the structure, to take over and sustain the development.

Since March, 2013, they have identified 5 problems areas they want to address over the following 15 years: They are:

Marginalization, health, water, degradation of the environment, and education.

"Marginalization and feminine health care are mainly directed at the empowerment of women in a holistic manner. They involve improving their economic development, to give women more financial independence, very important so they can make independent decisions for themselves. It also involves personal empowerment, so they can make those decisions, and social empowerment, the perception of the community so its women members are able to interact with the community to empower themselves.

"We set up a group of 70 women of that village and we now have seven ongoing projects with those women: hand-made

traditional jewelry; local production of reusable sanitary napkins for management of menstruation; bicycle rental and repair (this local business generates \$150 a month profit that is used to fund other projects); engaging women in open discussion of feminine health issues, formerly taboo in the region. Now some particularly motivated women go in to the schools and educate the girls in this important subject'

"Other health care issues: improving the local situation, where there is only one medication dispensary for 10,000 people; only one doctor, part-time; few health care resources and few medical materials. We did convince them that 'Play is Healthy.' We have also arranged for twice-yearly medical caravans, which see 300 patients each time.

"Water is the biggest problem in the region. 50% of the general population and 90% of village leaders identified water to be priority #1. Our objective is to create reliable local access to clean, safe water to at least 70% of the population in the community, within 15 years. Much of the available water from mountain springs has high levels of fluoride, which causes bone inflammation and other problems

"One year ago, in 2016, there were mainly only two sources of water: the river (40%) and a standing pipe bringing water from a mountain spring (60%). Now, 35% comes from the river, 36% from a TASAF\* well; 17% from the dispensary 7% from a TASAF\* standing pipe; and 2% at primary schools. [TASAF = Tanzania Social Action Fund, which includes TATU and its partners.]

"Existing access to water: River water contains parasites that cause disease. Trucks pass through selling safe, clean water but most of the villagers cannot afford that source of water.

"There is still more to do. The TASAF wells need to be tested and some equipped with an alternative energy source. We still need to work on reducing fluoride concentration to WHO standards. 91% of the population still spends from 1 to 3 hours to collect water (walking, waiting, collecting). There are, however, inspiring aspects: improved hygiene at the dispensary, vegetable gardens in schools, tree planting and our women's group is creating a new pipe system to extend the network.

"TATU's objectives for 2018: Two new wells, each equipped with fluoride removal system, so that 50% of the community has access to clean safe water by the end of 2019. Educate villagers on risks of unsafe water consumption, as well as on using water responsibly. Develop strong, well-trained water committees responsible for sustainable governance of each well by the beginning of 2019.

"TATU water well objectives will need **funding support of \$23,280 USD**, of which \$19,980 is for a solar-powered well pump. The total cost of the well is \$39,968.

"I hope we can count on your support."

**Lawrence** thanked **Albane**, saying, "Here in Canada we just turn on the tap to get water. When the municipality has to turn the water off for a few hours, everyone complains.

"I admire what you are trying to do to solve this serious water problem and I wish you all the best."

