



The Lakeshorian

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

Chartered February 27, 1961

Vol. 2016-17
Issue No. 34
Tuesday
February 21
2017

This Week's Program...

Ashley Bock, Beaconsfield High School, will tell us about her **Adventure in the Environment** September 12-15, 2016, hosted by the Rotary Club of Cornwall Sunrise.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

...none that we know of.

Future Programs...

- Feb 28: **PDG Bill** will talk about Rotary International and our club, both of which just celebrated birthdays—RI on the 23rd and RCML on the 27th.
- 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.
- Mar 14: **Francis Scarpaleggia**, Member of Parliament for Lac-Saint-Louis, **chaired the House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform**. The Liberal government has vowed to "restore the integrity of our electoral process and improve the fairness of our elections." **He will update us on the status of that process.**

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 Valentine's Day and members had been invited to bring their sweeties to the meeting and to come prepared to discuss how they first met each other and how they came to be a couple.

Perhaps in part due to the absence of our snowbirds, we were only 14 in attendance

Present were **Lawrence, Maureen, Sacit, Rosie, Bill, JP, Anne, Knud, Brenda, Emily** and **Cameron**. We were also pleased to welcome Cameron's lovely wife, **Winnifred**, as well as Honorary Member **Andy** and his dear wife, **Kathleen**.

President JP chaired our meeting, with help from **Lawrence** and **Maureen** who handed out long-stem red roses to each of the ladies present and a small package of chocolate hearts to the gentlemen.

Lawrence reminded us that, as our meeting fell on Valentine's Day, we were asked to come prepared to tell us all how we met our life partners. He said that he would start.

"When I was a young man I was in retail and a member of a merchandising team of three young men. We worked hard but had a few laughs along the way as well. Our job was to go round to the stores to implement improvements as we saw fit or even to open new stores as needed. I went to Chesterfield, where Maureen worked. My first words to her were, 'Have you got the kettle on, love?' which meant have you got tea for us. I rather like this girl Maureen but I didn't go out with her because she was already going out with somebody, but we kept in touch. Some time afterwards we did arrange to go out one afternoon. I was supposed to pick her up at 1 but because of something that had happened at my office I wasn't able to arrive at her house until 6 in the evening. I knocked on the door and this lady came to the door—it was her mother, bless her heart—and she said 'Are you that lad who she was meeting at one o'clock?' I said, 'Well that's me; I'm a bit late.' To make a long story short, we started to go out but as I was part of this merchandising team I only got to Chesterfield once a week so that's how often we went out, once a week for...what, love, eighteen months? After that I got a store of my own and settled down and we went out on a regular basis for three years. Then one day we saw a house we liked and I asked her if she would like to buy that house and get married. So we got married on July 2nd, 1966. That was the year England won the World Cup."

Next with a story to tell was **Cameron**, who began, "I came fresh out of university into the city of Cornwall. That was in 1961. At that time Domtar was running a little research station and that was a group that I got tied in with. As a young man I didn't know anybody in Cornwall so I looked around and found a youth group that was operating in the Baptist Church. I belonged to the United Church but I joined the Baptist Church youth group and I met Winnifred's sister there. She and the youth group got into Bible studies and she and I got into a discussion about the Bible. She decided that she couldn't handle me and invited me home to meet their father. So I went, but the father wasn't home. However, there were two people, a guy and a girl, sweeping the kitchen floor. I thought they were a couple but, as it turned out it was Winnifred and her brother. Winnifred's sister persuaded her to join the youth group, so I got to meet once a week with her at the youth group. There was a Christmas party coming up and I didn't have a date for that so I decided to ask Winnifred to be my date. Now there was a guy who wanted to go out with Winnifred but he would just drive up in front of the house and toot the horn, expecting Winnifred to just drop whatever she was doing and come out to join him in his car. She didn't want anything to do with that so he was soon out of the picture. We went on our first date and it was a dance and we won a prize for the spot dance. We weren't going steady; there were a couple other Cornwall girls I was interested in also and I decided to see which of these girls I would end up liking the best. As you can guess it was my Valentine here who won me

over. We got married in May of 1963 and had a daughter in February 1964; you do the math.

Lawrence said, "It's your turn, **Andy**,"

"Kathleen's going to do it," said Andy.

"He just showed up one day and never left!" she replied.

Pressed for more details, **Kathleen** said, "Andy would come up to the house on his bike and I asked him what he was doing here. "I want to take you out to dinner," he told me. "Now remember, between us we already had eight kids, so it wasn't our first rodeo. We were going out for dinner and he was driving so slowly I thought to myself, 'I could walk faster than this!' That was not like him but I didn't know that at the time. It turns out Andy just wanted to be with me; he didn't want to go out for dinner."

"I didn't have any money," Andy quipped.

"So that's how it started and here we are," Kathleen said.

"It's your turn, Bill," Lawrence said.

Bill told us he first met **June** at a the McGill Engineers' Ball in the spring of 1959. "I don't remember who my date was but George, a friend of mine, a Civil Engineer, had a sister who was one of June's best friends and she introduced us. Maybe she was a matchmaker, I don't know. Anyway, early that summer, my Civil Engineer buddy invited me to spend a weekend at his family's summer cottage in Pointe-Calumet, on the other side of Lake-of-Two-Mountains. I know nothing about that side of the lake, except that they made cheese in Oka, which was nearby.

"It was a lovely weekend, a lot of time spent down on the small beach at Pointe-Calumet and I enjoyed spending time with George's sister and her three friends...one in particular, in fact, whom I remembered from that McGill dance.

"It turned out that the four girls were planning a trip to Hampton Beach on the Atlantic Ocean in New Hampshire. I asked them when this was going to happen. 'In two weeks,' they told me.

"Well I couldn't pass up this opportunity to spend some time at a different beach with June and her friends, so I drove down and surprised her. We became friends and started going out when we all returned to Montreal.

"As it happens, I had been recruited by The Trane Company in La Crosse, Wisconsin to come and work for them and I had accepted. I was scheduled to move to La Crosse and start work on January 1st 1960, and I was determined that I would ask June to marry me and move to La Crosse, even though we had only known each other for six months and had been going out for only four months at that time.

"The Trane Company agreed to give me a four-day weekend off in mid-February and I asked June to be my wife and move with me to La Crosse, Wisconsin. Amazingly, she went along with this crazy scheme and so I came back to my parents' home in Greenfield Park on February 12th, we got married the next day and spent our honeymoon in the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago before flying up to La Crosse on Monday so I could be back at work on Tuesday.

"Our first child, Wayne, was born in October 1962 and that did it for my parents and June's, who badgered us until we agreed to move back to Montreal, which we did in 1968.

"So that was our fast and furious romance that turned out very well for both of us."

Lawrence told **JP** it was his turn.

"I was with my daughters recently and I saw a Family Guy clip on YouTube and it reminded me of the day I met my wife, Nathalie. In the carton a guy asks a girl for her phone number and she says, "Yes. No. Maybe. Give me your phone number. I'll send you an email." That's really how it went.

"We were at my cousin's wedding and she was there. At the dance after the wedding another of my cousins went to talk to Nathalie but they did not hit it off. Neither was impressed with the other. But later she passed by our table and I talked to her.

"One thing that is special about that...We have a picture at home of exactly the moment when we first talked, like within the first minute. We found that we had some things in common. But the this wedding was in Ottawa and I was from Montreal. I wanted to continue to keep in touch with her so we agreed to exchange email addresses. Unfortunately when I got home I found that she had given me my own email back, so I had no way to contact her.

"I finally found a way to get her phone number so I called her and we kept in touch but it was several months before we started dating because she was in Ottawa and I was in Montreal."

Lawrence asked **Maureen** if he had missed anything when he described how they met.

"My Mum didn't like Lawrence at all. She wouldn't even say his name. She just called him 'that lad.' She did everything she could to split us up and the reason was that Lawrence didn't go to church. He still doesn't go to church but he's one of the finest, kindest people I know.

"My aunt, who was also my Godmother, lived in the Lake District and she told my Mum she was being really foolish. Once Maureen sets her mind in something she'll stick to it, so accept him because she's not going to change her mind. We got engaged that August and got married the following year."

"We finally did get on, Maureen's Mum and me, even better that I got on with my own mother. I thought the world of her. Unfortunately she died very young. Great person she was, but we were both stubborn."

Kathleen added to the story of her and Andy. "My family didn't know Andy very well at all," she said. "We went off on this little honeymoon for about three days. We came home and went to my parents for Sunday dinner. My father was at the head of the table and Andy was sitting nearby and my father asked Andy if he had a good time. My father was a very conservative man and Andy turned to him and said, "Yes, I did but I couldn't help asking myself, 'Who is this woman in my bed?' "

Knud said he would take only one minute to tell his story.

"Before she became my wife, **Ruth Sonksen** was working for my company for four years. One afternoon she came into my office, closed the door and said, 'I'm quitting.'

" 'Oh,' I said. 'Why are you quitting?'

She started crying and said, 'There is no opportunity for a woman in this company.'

"I told her I was going out for supper and I invited her to join me so we could talk more about it. She agreed and we had a good time at supper. A few days later we went to the theatre and then went out again and again and that's how the whole thing started."

And with that, we closed the meeting