



The Lakeshorian

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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This Week's Program...

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

Happy Birthday, PDG Serge Robillard..... today, the 28th!

Happy Birthday, Andy.....Sunday, March 5th!

Future Programs...

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 vowed to “restore the integrity of our electoral process and improve the fairness of our elections.” Francis will bring us up to date on that.

Mar 21: **Barbara Engels**, District Rotaract Co-Representative and member of the Rotaract Club of Downtown Montreal, will talk to us **about joint projects and partnerships**.

Special Events...

June 2: (Friday) **Our Annual Auction**. In less than five months we will host our most important event of this Rotary year. It will provide the lion's share of the funding for our club's projects in 2017-2018.

Sad News...

We are saddened to report that **Giacomo Gigliotti** has passed away, following a valiant battle with cancer. Giacomo, from Genoa in northern Italy, was to have been our incoming youth exchange student for the 2014-2015 year, but had to cancel when he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Last Week's Meeting...

Only twelve members were on hand to hear the report of the high school student we sponsored to participate in Adventure in the Environment last September, a four-day learning experience organized by the Rotary Club of Cornwall Sunrise.

Present were **Lawrence, Sacit, Rosie, Bill, Murray, JP, Anne, Knud, Brenda, Emily Cameron** and **Deniz**. We were also pleased to welcome visiting Rotarian **David Warne**, Past President of the Rotary club of Hudson and Saint-Lazare; our guest speaker, **Ashley Bock**, from Beaconsfield High School and **Nancy Dubuc**, Community Coordinator for that school.

Among the announcements...

Brenda told us she and **Rosie** delivered Dictionaries4Life to pupils in Riverview Elementary School in Verdun Friday, Feb 17.



She also said, “Tomorrow, Rosie, Deniz and I will be going to the Welcome Hall Mission for a shift from 1 to 3 pm, to do whatever needs doing, sorting food, clothing or whatever.”

Brenda said she had heard from **Krista Kennedy** of **Défi Sportif**, the 7-day international sports event for physically and intellectually disabled athletes. “This year's event will take place from April 24th to 30th and Krista needs volunteers. Last year we had agreed to help on April 27th but something happened the day of and we cancelled. So if anyone is interested I think it would be exciting to see all these athletes and what they can do. So if you can go please get back to me. I think this is something we should seriously consider.”

Lawrence said he really needs to know who is planning to go to the Sugaring-off on March 7th. [If you haven't told him by now, please do so today! Ed.]

The new 50/50 draw was still in its infancy, with only \$88 in the pot. **Rosie** won the right to try to find the Ace of Spades but turned up the 9 of Clubs so the pot will continue to grow.

Our youth service chair, **Murray**, introduced **Nancy Dubuc**. “As Community Liaison for Beaconsfield High School, she keeps students involved in community projects and coordinates with us in Rotary adventures—environment, citizenship, history and technology.

“She is about to embark on a Community Service Trip to Mexico on March 3rd, with 18 students for 17 days on a project high in the mountains on the Pacific coast of Mexico.

“**Ashley** is a Grade 11 student heading for John Abbott next year, in the Science Program. Nancy informs me she is one of the top students in the school. That's wonderful and it speaks volumes about the people who are very involved in school activities. Ashley is involved in sports and recently involved in the school musical, working behind the scenes and sang in the program. She's very active in her church and in her community. Please welcome Ashley Bock to tell us about her Adventure.

Ashley confirmed that she is a Grade 11 student at BHS. "I have two younger siblings, a brother and a sister. I live in Beaconsfield and I love to get involved in everything I can, especially in the sciences. I really have a passion for that. I hope to pursue environmental science in the future; it's something that really interests me, so I was really excited when this opportunity was offered to me. It's not only in my field of interest, but it's something special.

"So let me tell you about the trip and the impact it has had on me. The whole adventure really started for me at the end of my Grade 10 year when I first learned about it. I got to talk to Emily Lafèche, who went on this Adventure the year before, and she told me how wonderful it was. That got me even more excited. Then I had the whole summer to think about it, and building up my expectations, right up to the weekend before.



"And it still surpassed all my expectations. It was an amazing experience, and I am so grateful that I got to do it."

With the help of a slide show filled with pictures of her experience, Ashley told us what they did each day.

"On Day 1 we arrived in Cornwall, Ontario. There were seven of us, all from different places, so I got to meet new people and make new friends. The first day we went to the Saint Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences, which is where we spent most of our time. With fish sampling, a discussion of the river's ecology led by Dr. Brian Hickey, fish processing (measuring, weighing, tagging and a presentation on the American Eel, it was jam-packed from the very first day.

"For fish sampling, we got to catch our own fish and see what researchers do with them and how they gather information. So it was a process where we were an actual part of the research and we got to create a bigger picture of it.

"One fish we looked at, specifically was the cutlip minnow, which is becoming extinct in the Saint Lawrence River. We learned how to tie them and how to count them. We also learned that they have a tri-lobed bottom lip that allows them to pick up rocks and make a little house under water out of rocks. That was pretty interesting.

"The man in the picture is Dr. Brian Hickey, who studies and majors in bats. He told us how he convinced them to let him study bats at the River Institute.

"On Day 2 we got a guided tour of the Moses-Saunders Dam for Ontario Power Generation (OPG). It crosses the St. Lawrence, one side in Canada, the other in New York State.

"We also saw an eel ladder they had there and we had a special presentation that explained the impact of dams as well as how much they help us. We had had a presentation on eels the day before so we were very interested in the eel ladder.

The eel population had been dwindling because they were dying while passing through turbines. We didn't see the eels climbing the eel ladder because eels are nocturnal, but we got to see them at the end.

"Later that day we had a salamander presentation by Matt Ellerbeck, an expert in the field. He explained how important the salamanders are to our eco-system, yet are being ignored.

"On Day 3 we visited the Cooper Marsh Conservation Area, where more than 130 species of wetland birds breed. We also studied zooplankton and invertebrate sampling techniques. That night we were going to go to a bat cave; unfortunately that didn't happen but we went to this forest where we set up huge bat nets, hoping to catch a bat, with Dr. Brian Hickey. We didn't catch one but it was pretty cool anyways. We could hear the sonar noises they made as they flew by but the bats were just too clever to get caught in our net. The night hike through the forest was truly beautiful.

"On Day 4 we took most of our data and actually contributed to a research project at the SLRI laboratory, where we entered our own data and studied certain samples of water from the St. Lawrence River to analyze and determine water quality. They told us they would actually keep our data for their records. It was a real lab with real equipment made just to study water quality; it was pretty amazing to be part of that.

"We had a wrap-up discussion with members of the Rotary Club of Cornwall Sunrise. All in all it was a really amazing experience and I'm so glad I got to go. For me it brought science to a whole new level. All around us were things we just couldn't see, the tiny zooplankton and the bats at night, even the fish, all things that we just take for granted and don't think about, except for experts who do all the thinking for us. It's so much more than classroom science and it was all because you guys make this kind of adventure available to young people like me. I want to thank you all so much!"

Deniz thanked Ashley for her excellent presentation. "We can see that you learned a lot about the aquatic creatures in our Saint Lawrence River environment and that makes us proud that we could give you this opportunity. Thank you for sharing your experience with us today."

