



# The Lakeshorian

Vol. 2016-17  
Issue No. 27  
Tuesday  
January 3  
2017

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

Chartered February 27, 1961

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

**Murray**, who chairs the organizing committee for **Auction 2017**, to take place on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, will lead a group discussion of its importance to the club and the need for everyone to support it.

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

*Happy birthday Heinz Ritter, Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017!*

## *Future Programs...*

Jan 10: **Alexandra Fortin**, a professor at Cégep André-Laurendeau, will tell us about the National Model United Nations, which annually hosts more than 5,000 college and university students from six continents. We donated \$500 to help finance her participation in the NMUN in March, along with 12 Cégep students.

Jan 17: **Dâriini Vedarattiname**, Director of Public Relations and Image for District 7040, has been invited by **Brenda** to talk to us about PR and the possibilities of joint projects with other clubs.

Jan 24: **Kim Nguyen**, Director of Development-Annual Campaign for the Old Brewery Mission Foundation.

## *Special Events...*

June 2: (Friday) **Our Annual Auction**. In just 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...*

For our New Year's breakfast we were seated at one long table of 21 plus a table of 4 for **President JP** and **Nathalie** and their two daughters.

In addition to our President and his family the following members and guests were present: **Wayne** and **Sandy** and her brother **Robert**, **Helen**, **Lawrence**, **Maureen**, Honorary Member **Andy** and **Kathleen**, **Rosie**, **Sacit**, **Stan** and **Anita**, as well as Anita's sister, **Norma** and her husband, **Marvin**, **Bill** and his guest, **Margaret Martin**, **Knud**, **Sola** and **Joe Zemanovich**. We were also pleased to welcome Baie d'Urfé Rescue Squad execs **Tony Brown** and **Ken Forse**, guests of the club.

Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell** was away visiting his son, **Graham**, in Wales, the Land of Song. In Joe's absence our Scottish pretender **Bill** made a gallant attempt to uphold our club's New Year's breakfast traditions.

He began by explaining that the Scots make a bigger deal out of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day than most English Canadians do. In importance, New Year's in Scotland is more akin to the French Canadian view of that holiday.

"The last two or three days of the year are called Hogmanay and are spent 'cleaning house,' " Bill told us, "which, in the strictest of households, also includes clearing up any outstanding debt. New Year's Day--and January 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is a bank holiday in Scotland--are traditional visiting days, when family and friends are welcomed into the home. The first of those to arrive in the New Year is called the First Footer, and that, too, has its own traditions steeped in superstition born of ancient folklore. The characteristics of the first footer are believed to bode well or ill for the rest of the year. The ideal first footer would be a dark-haired handsome man, carrying a piece of coal, whisky, Scottish shortbread and a black bun. A blond-haired man is reminiscent of the Vikings and their arrival on your doorstep at any time was not the best thing that could happen to you. Doctors also tend to be unwelcome first footers as the superstition of impending illness may prevail.

"But I'm getting ahead of myself," Bill continued. "We are here to Pass the Quaich filled with Uisge Beatha. The quaich I brought with me (pictured here) was a gift from **Alex Blair**, our visiting curler from Kilwinning, Scotland Its contents: a well-known single malt, aged 12 years.



"You will note that the quaich has two handles. Two hands are to be used to offer the quaich and to accept it. Folklore has it that the reason is to ensure that neither giver nor acceptor has his other hand on the hilt of a sword.

"**Wayne** and **Sandy** kindly brought small plastic cups for use by anyone who prefers to drink from a 'private quaich'.

"As you offer the quaich of whisky to your neighbour you should say the Gaelic toast *Slàinte Mhath* ("Slanj-uh-va"), which means 'Good Health to You!' and your neighbour, in accepting the quaich, should say, *Slàinte Mhor* (Slanj-uh-vor) meaning 'Even Better Health to You!' "

And with that Bill got the ball rolling by offering the quaich to his guest, **Margaret**, with a "Slàinte Mhath!" The quaich was then passed to everyone along both sides of the table and to **President JP** and **Nathalie**. Several refills were required.

Finally, it was shared by Past President **Lawrence** with our server, **Lee-Ann**, as pictured here:

