



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

Rotary



# The Lakeshorian

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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## This Week's Program...

**NO MEETING THIS WEEK!** There will be no Rotary meeting in weeks which contain a statutory holiday (e.g. New Year's Day, Easter Monday, Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas).

## Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

*Happy Anniversary, Omer Sudekan ...*

*... Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!*

*Happy Birthday, Honorary Member George Bradley ...*

*.. Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>!*

*Happy Birthday, Magda Habib, Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>!*

## Future Programs...

Sep 12: **Joe Zemanovich** will talk about *Operation Smile*, the program to finance surgical correction of cleft lip and cleft palate.

Sep 19: **Glorefe Kozma**, who transferred from her first Rotary club, the Puerto Princesa club in the Philippines, will tell us about "*A Young Woman's Journey with Rotary*."

Sep 26: T.B.D.

## Special Events...

Sep 14: (Thursday) Board of Directors Meeting, Holiday Inn. Food served at 6:30 pm. Meeting starts at 7.

Sep 21: (Thursday) Community Service visit to Old Brewery Mission. Arrive at 3:30 pm if you haven't served a meal there for a year or more, as there have been changes, or 4 pm if you are a regular OBM volunteer.

Sep 16: (Saturday) At the Cantrills, 1412 Chemin St-Féréol, Les-Cèdres, QC J7T 1N8, from 1 to 5 PM, A Fun and Friendship Party, including chip butties, desserts, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Voluntary donations will help buy new bed linen for the Cheshire Homes.

Sep 29-30 (Friday, Saturday) **District Conference, "Celebrating Our Service"** Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort, 873 NY-37, Hogansburg, NY 13655

Oct 20: (Friday) All Rotarians are invited to enjoy a special luncheon in Hartford, Connecticut, featuring **RI President Ian Riseley** 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...

It was a special, community-oriented program last Tuesday, with our Community Service chair, **Brenda**, presiding and featuring **Wendy Gariepy**, Director, West Island Mission and special guest **Rhonda Massad**, journalist and founder of *West Island Blog*.

Fourteen active members, one honorary member and three guests were present: **Abie, Lawrence, Maureen, Rosie, Stan, Bill, Murray, Glorefe, Anne, Sade, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Cameron** and Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell**.

Called upon to introduce our guests, **Stan** told us, "We have a new Sergeant-at-Arms-in-training, **Glorefe**, and she is letting me introduce our visitors for the last time. In addition to special guest **Rhonda Massad**, we are pleased to welcome Brenda's father, **Victor**, her niece, **Felicia**, and **Glorefe's** daughter, **Anastasia**."

**Bill** thanked everyone who had helped with our Blood Donor Clinic on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. "The turnout was lower than in prior years," he said. "We had expected over 80 donors but only 64 passed through this year's clinic, and 62 units of blood were collected. I believe one reason for the low turnout was the Kirkland Sports Complex itself and parking in particular. The normal parking area in front of the complex is blocked by construction materials. There is plenty of parking behind the complex, accessible from the street beside the complex. Unfortunately, many potential donors were unaware of that parking lot and that may have contributed to the low donor turnout.

"My Héma-Québec contact, **France Boutin**, tells me that up to four people can benefit from the blood products of one unit of blood, so our 62 units of blood will help over 200 people."

In his Moment of Mirth **Murray** told us, "Two fathers and two sons went duck hunting and each shot one duck but they took home only three ducks. How come?" **Maureen** wasn't fooled. "There were only three duck hunters, father, son and grandfather."

**Emily** told us that a school in St. Vincent, her home country, called the Calliaqua Anglican School, needs some very basic help: chairs and desks for the Grade Twos, books suitable for general reading by elementary school pupils and some computers, of which they now have only one."

Asked how books could be transported, Emily said she is considering making a visit and bringing books with her.

**Brenda** said our club still has a few Dictionaries-4-Life that we could donate once the transportation issue is resolved.

**Rhonda** said, "On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> I will be putting on the Second Annual *Neighbours-for Neighbours* food drive, where we collect food for five West Island food banks, including the West Island Mission. On that day please bring not-perishable food items to the Provigo Marché Kirkland on the TransCanada service road. We'll be there from 9am to 4pm. There will be local hockey players and Scouts who will take items from your car as you drive up."

**Brenda** said we had received thank-you letters from The West Island Mission and from Welcome Hall Mission. "Thank-you notes and letters we receive are posted on our website, [www.rotarymontreallakeshore.org](http://www.rotarymontreallakeshore.org). Just type Thank you Notes in the box near the bottom of the home page and click Search.

"We will be making another visit to the Old Brewery Mission on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Tour available at 3:30 pm. We start serving food at 4 pm. It's a different way of serving now, so if you haven't been there in several months, you should come at 3:30 to learn the ropes.

"**NOVA West Island** is having a breakfast fundraiser on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 to 10:30 am, at the Home-style Bakery and Black Lion Pub, 445 Beaconsfield Boulevard. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door."

Special guest **Rhonda** took a selfie with each of the tables at our meeting, as caught by our own cameraman below.



**Brenda** had a Certificate of Appreciation for **Felicia**, to recognize her dedicated support of our community service activities, as pictured here.



**Brenda** introduced our guest speaker, **Wendy Garipey**, who began by thanking us for our support of West Island Mission over the years, both financially and by hands-on volunteering.

"I joined the West Island Mission Board of Directors in 2007, where I served for three years. Then I resigned to become a staff member. So I have been working for West Island Mission since 2010. I am the only employee. Our organization runs on volunteers. We count on them to keep our admin cost as low as possible, so we can use the funds that come in for the families we serve.

"Our mandate as a food bank is to serve 160 to 180 families on the West Island. Most of our clients receive one food basket every month. Some only one every two or three months, and there are some extreme cases where a family may receive two food baskets per month. We want to help families but we don't want them to become totally reliant on us.

"Who is a typical client on our database? Well, we have for example seniors on fixed pension, some as low as \$12,000 a year. We also have single parents, not just single Moms but also single Dads. We have unemployed people, others on physical disability due to job-related accidents. We have people on permanent disability, either physical or mental health related. There's a lot of stress, a lot of pressure out there.

"And at the moment we are also serving a large number of new immigrant families. Some of them were professionals back in their home country—dentists, doctors, physiotherapists, for example—and they come here and have to start from scratch."

She shared a story with us. First she explained that an immigrant professional has to pass several exams, at a cost of \$1,500 or \$2,000 each before being certified to practise here. They can fail an exam twice but if they fail a third time they are no longer eligible to take the exam. She told us about a young man who had been a client for about six or eight months.

"One Friday morning he asked to speak with me. Well, I told him, this is such a busy time that you'll just have to wait until things start to quiet down. He waited patiently; then told me, 'This is the last food basket I will need to feed my family.' Then he said he had taken the exam for the third and final time. He had not been with the food bank when he took the exam the first two times because he was working to feed his family. But by getting that food basket once a month he was able to put aside a part-time job that had been interfering with his study time. The extra time he had to focus on his studies enabled him to pass the exam. He was emotional when he told me this story and ended by saying he already had a job offer at McGill.

"We also do Christmas baskets. Last year we supplied Christmas baskets to 288 families, if I remember correctly. We call them baskets but they are really a careful of Christmas goodies, with two to four baskets of non-perishable food, two bags of perishable items like fruit, vegetables, milk, bread, a turkey, new toys for every child in the family and a bag of toiletry gifts for every adult in the family, knitted items for seniors. One volunteer who delivered Christmas baskets said he could hear through the closed windows of a fourth-floor walk-up apartment, the kids squealing with delight as he returned to his car.

"This year we had a bit of a challenge due to the flooding. We were fortunate that someone donated a 2,000 square foot warehouse that we could use for a couple of months. In just five days we filled that warehouse with food, cleaning products, toiletry items, baby diapers and gift cards for local merchants. The West Island community was so generous, thanks in large part to Rhonda, who organized the food drive. We served about 110 families recovering from the flooding, and about 15 of them continue to look to us for help."

Wendy told us several more stories, some very touching, and an amusing one about bubble bath for a family that had no idea what a bubble bath was. She also showed us a video of families collecting back packs before their kids head back to school. Unfortunately, they do not have permission to let us put the video on our website. You just had to be there to feel the joy that these families experienced from the awesome help they were receiving from West Island Mission.

She closed by telling us how we can help. Three ways: food, volunteering and financial assistance. Food can be delivered to their headquarters at 139 Labrosse, Pointe-Claire.

**Glorefe** told a very moving story about help she received from West Island Mission during a three-month period when she needed it most. It allowed her family to survive until she could find employment. Now she has joined our Rotary club to give back to the community that was there for her in her time of need.



**Brenda** personally thanked **Wendy** and her organization for the dedication they demonstrate by what they do for West Island families in need, and invited **Glorefe** and her daughter to join them for a photo with Wendy.