



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Rotary



The Lakeshorian

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This Week's Program...

[Evening meeting] **Murray** has invited six high school teachers and counsellors to join him and his Youth Committee at 5 pm for a meeting. They will discuss how we might collaborate to assist West Island students with volunteer community activities. They have also been invited to stay for our evening meeting and meal.

We will also induct a brand new Rotarian, **Carol Horn**, which is a true highlight of any club president's year.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

Happy Anniversary, Stan and Anita...

... Thursday, November 9th!

Happy Anniversary, Abie and Suzanne...

... Thursday, November 9th!

Happy Birthday, Bob Habib Sunday, November 12th!

Future Programs...

Nov 14: **Nikita Moriarity**, Director, LGBTQ, will tell us about the services they offer on the West Island, as well as future programs, and initiatives.

Nov 21: **Brenda** has invited **Kathryn Stephens**, Director, Development and Public Relations at **Welcome Hall Mission**, to bring us up to date on her organization's activities and role in the Montreal community.

Nov 28: **The Rotary Foundation** celebrates its centennial in 2017 and November is Rotary Foundation Month. Our speaker, **Past District Governor Bonnie Black**, will bring us up to date on the programs offered by The Rotary Foundation.

Special Events...

Dec 8: Our annual **Christmas Party** will be hosted by **Andy and Kathleen**, at their home in Baie d'Urfé

Late Breaking News...

District 7040's **Million Dollar Dinner***, held on Saturday, November 4th, raised **\$1,105,165.45** in gifts and pledges to The Rotary Foundation. [*The Million Dollar Dinner capped a 2-year campaign from November 1, 2015 to November 1, 2017, from Major Gifts, Bequests (new or increases) of US\$10,000 or greater, outright gifts of stocks or other assets valued at US\$10K, joining TRF Bequest Society or the Paul Harris Society with a commitment of US\$10K. *Ed.*]

Last Week's Meeting...

David Leduc, Old Brewery Mission's Executive Director of Development, spoke about OBM's major gifts fundraising program. Sixteen members were present for David's talk. They were **Wayne**, President **Helen**, **Lawrence**, **Maureen**, **Rosie**,

Stan, **Murray**, **Semi**, **Glorefe**, **Knud**, **Brenda**, **Emily**, **Cameron**, **Joe Zemanovich**, **Andy** (Honorary) and **Joe Maxwell** (Honorary).

We were also pleased to welcome back an old friend, visiting Rotarian **Lina Talih**, from the Rotary club of Chouf, Lebanon. She invited us to consider participating in the Water Sanitation, Hygiene, & Peace Conference, hosted by Rotary District 2452 in Beirut, Lebanon, 16-18 February, 2018.



Brenda listed the wide variety of hands-on Community Service projects available in the weeks leading up to Christmas, including:

- An ongoing need for socks for schoolkids at La Corde Centre.
- Nov 15 – LGH Foundation's Volunteer Appreciation Lunch.
- Nov 23 or 30, 1 – 4 pm, Welcome Hall Mission food bank.
- Dec 7 – Gift wrapping at Fairview. We are already 7 people who have signed up; with 1 more we can do the whole shift.
- Dec 15 – Finalize our Christmas gift baskets, with help from Baie d'Urfé Rescue Squad, for delivery on Saturday, Dec 16.
- Dec 22 – Ste. Anne's Hospital in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, needs volunteers to help bring residents from their rooms down to auditorium for their Christmas Party.
- Several dates in Nov and Dec, Moisson Montréal needs help to sort foods into perishable and non-perishable. Can work one or both shifts 8:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 3 pm.
- NOVA has opened a new thrift shop in Plaza Pointe-Claire, joining the three in Ste-Anne's (thrift shop, used books store and Bargain Alley), a second-hand furniture store in Beau-repaire Village, Beaconsfield and a thrift shop in Kirkland.

President **Helen** announced that **Andy** and **Kathleen** have offered to host our Christmas Party in their home on Friday, Dec 8. It will be "Pot Luck" and promises to be loads of fun.

Helen also reminded us that Dec 19 will be our last meeting prior to the holidays. "Lawrence has agreed to ask the hotel if we could have a Christmas meal on that date."

Murray's moment of mirth was a poem by Thomas Hood:

No sun - no moon!
No morn - no noon -
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member -
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -
November!

Murray also announced that our **Annual Auction** will take place on **Friday, June 1st, 2018**. He said the date of the first meeting of the auction committee will be Tuesday Nov 14th.

Brenda introduced our guest speaker, **David Leduc**.

"David has dedicated much of his career working on issues related to social justice and peace-building. Most of his work internationally and here in Canada has been focused on promoting tolerance, equality and human rights."

“Over the past 13 years, David has held key leadership positions, notably as Director of Global Operations at McGill University’s International Community Action Network (ICAN), where he worked for a decade to strengthen civil society in Jordan, Israel and Palestine. He successfully negotiated complex international partnerships and significantly grew stakeholder involvement enabling the program to expand. More recently, as Executive Director of Development and Peace (an international development organization) he was instrumental in redefining the organization’s strategic approach to philanthropy and played a key role in securing a historical major gift.

“David believes that, ‘ending homelessness in our city is possible if, as a community, we unite, participate and contribute together.’

“David has a combined Honours degree in International Development and Spanish, from Dalhousie University in Halifax and an MBA from McGill. Please welcome David Leduc.”

David began by correcting the topic that The Lakeshorian had suggested he would speak about—the OBM’s major gift program. “But if you agree to give over all of your life’s possessions to the Old Brewery Mission, I won’t talk about that,” he quipped. “I want to talk about programs that are far more interesting.”

“I’m delighted to be here with you. I was able to meet some of you about a month ago at our supper experience. It’s a fundraiser that we do on a daily basis, where a group of people come to serve meals to the 600 to 1,000 individuals who come through our doors every day to eat supper. Except for regulars like you, we usually give a tour of the mission, and provide an understanding of the services that are available, and explaining some of the obstacles and challenges that working with the homeless entails.

“It is the largest resource of its kind for homeless men in Quebec. What many people don’t know about the Old Brewery Mission is that it is the largest resource of its kind for homeless women in Canada. We have seven pavilions across the city. Most of you are familiar with the Webster Pavilion on St-Laurent and St-Antoine. It has been there for years and we have images of lineups of homeless men that stretch around the corner. We have 200 staff who work in all of our 7 pavilions.. Anybody who comes through our doors will be greeted with care and love and a warm environment,”

“Every now and then an opportunity comes around where we have the chance to be involved in something truly transforming. In the life of any cause there comes a time when something transformative happens such that the cause is no longer a cause and we have resolved the issue. People think of homelessness as a never-ending issue that has been around for more than a hundred years and is likely to be around for another hundred. The 130 years of the Old Brewery Mission’s existence would pay tribute to that way of thinking.

However, about seven years ago, the Old Brewery Mission forged a relationship with McGill University and started their own research team. To my knowledge it’s the only organization working with homelessness that has a research team housed at the mission and supervised by a university professor of social work.

“They started analyzing what they’ve been doing—the programs, how they’re working, what type of clients are coming in through our doors, what kind of success rate were we having in moving them out. What it basically showed after they completed the initial research was that much of what we who are working with homelessness were doing was enabling homelessness, enabling, in many cases, those whose life trajectories had taken them there, to stay there—a place to stay, a bed to sleep in, warm meals. And, throughout the network of homeless

agencies in Montreal it was quite possible to remain there. That was one of the realizations that was a bit of a slap in the face, I think. And the second was that 80 percent of the people who entered from the street really don’t need that much help to get off. They may have hit a little rut in the road, they lost their job, went through a divorce, were going through some depression. They needed a little bit of a lift to get out of there.

“So what that made us realize was that, instead of investing equal amounts of time to all those people coming through our doors, we needed to focus on the other 20 percent of homeless people who live on the street, for whom it has become a life-style to go in and out of the doors of agencies throughout the city. Almost all of those individuals suffer from some form of mental health issue.

David went on to explain that the Old Brewery Mission has completely changed its approach to the homelessness issue.

“It costs almost \$60,000 a year to keep somebody in homelessness, keep them in the shelter system, moving them from place to place. On the other had it costs between \$18,000 and \$22,000 to put them into assisted living—homes with dignity in an environment in which they are reintegrated into society. Now the goal is not to move people from one tower of homelessness to another somewhere else, but to insist that they be involved in some form of progressive program with the goal of moving out. So we are now proactive about assisting people to move out of homelessness.”

“The biggest change resulted from a partnership with CHUM, the medical service provider. CHUM now has two offices at the Old Brewery Mission. Those offices are occupied by psychiatrists, criminologists, nurses, et cetera. They have the medical expertise and equipment but up to now they did not work with homeless people on a daily basis, so are unaware of the reality these people face. Our social worker and other OBM staff have that expertise. When someone is going through a psychiatric episode and appears to be violent and angry, that person is actually experiencing fear. What they need is space, so they can begin to feel free to talk to us and come to realize that we can help them.

“The goal is to provide adapted, personalized care, and we are getting results. It’s working! Within five weeks of entering our door, 80 percent of homeless people are off the streets and living in assisted housing. It’s amazing. When we started this program four years ago there were an estimated 2,000 people who were living chronically on the streets of Montreal. Now there are 500 fewer; that’s a 20% decrease.

“In building partnerships we can mitigate to a certain degree what would be the exorbitant cost to bring in the level of expertise we need. But we are now on a trajectory that ends in a dream of one day closing our doors and seeing the end of homelessness in Montreal.

“We have moved from a passive context of dealing with homelessness to a more active process, becoming more directly involved in the lives of those who come through our door. Since 2014, of 450 persons who have come to us with chronic homeless issues, 74% are now living in assisted housing. And one last important stat: 94% of the people we have moved into assisted housing are still there.”

Lawrence thanked David for giving us an insight into the changes the Old Brewery Mission has made to eventually put an end to homelessness in Montreal.

