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Rotary



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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This Week's Program...

Tomorrow is **Valentines' Day**, so today we are showing our appreciation for our spouses/partners. Bring her or him to our meeting today so we can all enjoy Valentines' Day together.

Happy Anniversary, Bill and June ..today, February 13th!

Happy Anniversary, Steve and Margaret...

..... Thursday, February, 15th!

Happy Birthday, Mary Saad..... Sunday, February 18th!

Future Programs...

Feb 20: Brenda has invited **Marie Pier**, Women's Counsellor, External Services of the West Island Women's Shelter, to update us about her organization.

Feb 27: **President Helen** will lead us in celebrating **our club's 57th birthday**, which is today!

Mar 6: T.B.D.

Special Events...

Mar 10: (Saturday) 9 am – 12 pm. **District International Service / Rotary Foundation Meeting**, and 1-3 pm. **Grants Management Seminar #5**, both at the Cornwall Lions Club Hall, St. Andrews, ON.

Apr 21-22: **PETS (President-elect Training Seminar), Foundation Dinner & District Training Assembly**, NAV Centre, 1950 Montreal Road, Cornwall, ON. [Advance registration required.]

Last Week's Meeting...

Lucile Kircher President of le Club Rotaract de l'Île de Montréal, told us all about her club.

Active Rotary club members present were **Wayne**, President **Helen**, **Lawrence**, **Maureen**, **Rosie**, **Sacit**, **Esin**, **Brahm**, **Bill**, **Murray**, **Semi**, **Glorefe**, **Knud**, **Brenda**, **Cameron** and **Deniz**. We were also pleased to welcome Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell**.

We were also pleased to welcome **Mara**, guest of **Brahm**, **Maricarmen Raudales**, guest of **Knud**, **Art Surette** and **Glorefe's** daughter, **Anastasia**.

President **Helen** welcomed everyone to our meeting. She also noted that she and her Board of Directors have updated our club's bylaws, which must be accepted by a quorum of at least 12 active club members. We were 16. The bylaws were passed by a show of hands.

Community Service Chair **Brenda** gave **Wayne** a \$1000 cheque for the Cheshire Foundation Quebec



Asked if she had any volunteering opportunities coming up, **Brenda** told us:

- She needs **socks for kids age 6-12** to deliver to the **La Corde Youth Centre** in Pierrefonds;
- [Wednesday, February 28th, 10am to 2 pm] **Visit to the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf**. Volunteers needed to participate in activities such as playing games, puzzles, reading and interacting with students at the school.
- Volunteers needed for future visit(s) to the **Welcome Hall Mission grocery store**.

Among the announcements:

- **Murray** told us that **Amcal**, one of the charities we support, received a donation of \$12,000 from Home Depot;
- **Murray** also said that we are starting to get responses from the high schools to our **Alan Liddiard Public Speaking Contest**. Youth Committee member **Cameron** is following up with the schools. [Our contest this year will take place at an evening meeting on April 10th. Ed.]
- In regard to the "Adventure" series, **Murray** said we are awaiting info from the Cornwall-Sunrise club re Adventure in the Environment, usually occurring in September, and from the Nepean-Kanata club re Adventure in High Technology, usually occurring in October.
- On our **Auction 2018 Murray** said things are coming along very nicely, with ads and donations of auction items coming in very well. "Lawrence is the person responsible for ads, so if you know someone who might contribute an ad, please give the contact info to Lawrence."
- On **Carol's** behalf, in regard to **membership**, **Murray** asked members to save their copies of past issues of *The Rotarian* and *Rotary Canada*. "Carol says they will be very useful to explain to a prospective new member what Rotary does in Canada and round the world

Joe Maxwell said that a recent issue of the *Montreal Gazette*, on the Children's page, one of the reporters quoted Rotary's 4-Way Test and suggested it be taught in our schools.

Maureen told us **Andy** and **Kathleen's** granddaughter, **Emily**, cuts her hair whenever it gets long enough (quite frequently, as her hair grows very fast) she cuts several inches off to make wigs. She has just done so again, this time cutting 12 inches of hair off; it's the ninth time she has done this since she was 10 years old!

Sacit won the right to try to turn over the Ace of Spades, to win the 50:50. Unfortunately, he found the 10 of Clubs instead.

Joe told us a joke about an old lady who decided to treat herself on her 85th birthday by staying overnight in a fancy hotel. When she checked out the next morning, she was shocked to get a bill for \$450.

"It's a nice hotel but the room certainly wasn't worth \$450 for a one-night stay. I didn't even have breakfast." When the desk clerk told her that was the "standard rate," she asked to

speaking to the manager, who explained, "This hotel has an Olympic-size pool and a huge conference centre."

"But I didn't use them," she said.

"Ah, but they're here and you could have," countered the manager. He went on to list the many amenities for which the hotel is famous. No matter what amenity the manager mentioned, she replied, "But I didn't use it," and the manager countered each time with his standard response. The lady decided to pay and wrote a cheque. When she gave it to the manager he complained, "But this cheque is only for \$50.00."

"That's correct," she replied, "I charged you \$400 for sleeping with me."

"But I didn't!" exclaimed the manager.

"Too bad," she replied. "I was here and you could have."

Bill told us one about a pastor whose wife was expecting their sixth child. The congregation had agreed, before the second child was born, that they would give the pastor a raise after the birth of each subsequent child. But with now six kids, they were getting fed up. "Children are gifts from God," the pastor declared, "and we will take as many gifts as He gives us. "Rain, too, is a gift from God," said a lady in the back of the church, "but when we get too much of it, we put on raincoats." The entire congregation said, "Amen."

Our guest speaker, **Lucile Kircher**, told us she arrived in Montreal 1½ years ago from France. She is here on a "working holiday," meaning she has permission to work but her stay in Canada is of limited duration.

She told us she has been a Rotaractor for about five years, most of that time in France, and has been President of the Club Rotaract de l'Île de Montréal since July. She told us about her Rotaract club here with the aid of an excellent PowerPoint presentation.



She said her club, chartered in 2011, is the first community-based Rotaract club in Montreal, and is supported by the Club Rotary Ville-Marie. They are currently 13 active members, ages 20 to 30, representing different cultures—Algeria, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, France (including New Caledonia, a French territory comprising dozens of islands in the South Pacific) and Tunisia. Their academic backgrounds are also varied, including design, engineering, law, management, marketing and science.

Their motto is **Education for Youth by Youth** and this year they are focussing on three priority areas: Networking & PR, Service Activities and Team Cohesion. Rotaract clubs are *Partners in Service* with Rotary clubs. Their volunteering activity so far this Rotary year has comprised 23 events, totalling 333 hours and include helping the Salvation Army with its mobile soup kitchen and fundraising events such as JDRF (Foundation for Diabetes Research) and various local Rotary club events. She told us her club has "already helped out with events of the Rotary clubs of Montreal-Westward, Ville-Marie, Westmount, and we can help your club, too. We don't have a lot of money but we have a lot of time."

They have a great, balanced relationship with their sponsor, Club Rotary Montréal Ville-Marie. That Rotary club has helped finance their participation in RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Academy), Rotaract Retreat, the District Conference and this year the RI Convention in Toronto. They also have regular visits from their Rotary sponsor club members and help each other with social and volunteering activities.

Because they had a lot of new members this year, Lucile decided to take a survey to see what their main service activity would be. They chose "Helping women and children living with AIDS. To that end we have partnered with Centre d'Action SIDA Montréal-Femmes (CASM), and we have asked them to tell us how we can help them in their activities and projects. Their mission is to provide support and services for women infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS and their families.

"We will also hold an International Supper, a Rotaract event to raise money and gain new members. Each member brings food from their native country or a country of their choosing, sufficient to feed ten people. Every Rotaractor also has to bring two friends between the ages of 18 and 30. We hope some of them will become Rotaractors."

"We also hold an annual fundraising gala. Last year our gala had as its theme The Rotary Foundation Centennial. This year our gala, which will take place in May, will have as its theme our work with CASM. We will send you an invitation, for sure!

"In the realm of team cohesion, we do an activity together every month. We meet only every two weeks. Personally, I wanted our team to become our friends, so we decided to use an escape room. Everyone gets locked up in a room and they have to get out. The room is, figuratively speaking, a prison cell and in order to get out you have to solve a code or puzzle. Everybody in the room is trapped there for one hour and they have to solve the puzzle in order to get out. It forces people to work together.

"We also have other social activities, including a catered Christmas brunch every year. We use this get-together to reflect on the year that is coming to end and to discuss what we want for the year that is about to begin.

Lastly, we cement our team's cohesiveness at the restaurant Robin des Bois, which is staffed mostly by volunteers and all the profits are donated to local charities that work to ward off solitude, social isolation and poverty. Half of our members worked in the kitchen or as waiters and waitresses; the others went to dinner. I was happily part of the latter group."

Summing up, Lucile told us they "volunteer, at least every two weeks, facilitate communication with Rotary clubs and use social activities to strengthen links between Rotaractors. Don't forget to plan to attend our Gala toward CASM!"

There were many questions, a tribute to the excellence of her presentation. Lucile was thanked by **Murray**, who said his Youth Committee's wish list includes the hope that Interact, Rotaract and Rotary clubs will follow a flow-through pattern, where Interactors will become Rotaractors who will then become Rotarians. It's a natural migration path and it will help solve the membership problem that is common to all three."

