



# The Lakeshorian

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Rotary



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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

President **Helen** has asked **Bill** to present a history of our Rotary club on our club's **57<sup>th</sup> birthday**, which is today!

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries...*

*Happy Birthday, PDG Serge Robillard...*

*...tomorrow, February 28<sup>th</sup>!*

*Happy Birthday, Andy.....Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>!*

## *Future Programs...*

Mar 6: [Evening meeting] Program T.B.D.

Mar 13: **Tania Charron**, Development Officer of West Island Youth Action (AJOI), has been invited by **Murray** to tell us about her organization.

Mar 20: **Andrew Bock**, the BHS student our club sponsored for the Adventure in the Environment last September, will tell us about his experience.

## *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...*

Last Tuesday **Brenda** invited **Marie Pier**, Women's Counsellor, External Services, West Island Women's Shelter, to bring us up to date on the activities of her organization.

Active Rotary club members present were President **Helen, Rosie, Esin, Stan, Bill, Murray, Semi, Glorefe, Sade, Sola, Brenda, Emily** and **Cameron**. We were also pleased to welcome Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell**.

Visiting Rotarians from the Hudson-and-St-Lazare club were **Louis-Philippe Lefrançois** and Past President **David Warne**. We were also pleased to welcome **Kathryn McCreath** and **Kim Reid** of *On Rock Community Services*, guests of the club, Brenda's father, **Victor**, and Cameron's wife, **Winnifred**.

### Among the announcements...

▪ Although it's too late to take advantage of this opportunity, we do want to mention that **Emily** told us last Tuesday of an evening in Pierrefonds on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, when black professionals would tell us what has been going on in the West Island during Black History Month.

▪ **Murray** told us that preparations for this year's *auktion* are well under way, with some excellent auction items already received or promised, in large part thanks to the amazing efforts of **Knud**. For example, **The Centaur Theatre** has agreed again to provide two memberships; **Via Rail** has committed to donate a \$2,000 voucher that the winning bidder can use to go anywhere Via Rail operates across Canada; and the **Akwasasne Mohawk Casino Resort** has given us a holiday package, new this year.

▪ On the topic of *Youth*, **Murray** said we are moving forward on our *Adventures* program and the *Alan Liddiard Public Speaking Contest*

▪ Regarding that speaking contest **Cameron** said Westwood Senior High School has told us they will have a speaking contest in their school and has asked us if we would come and give a gift to the winning speaker. "I have replied in the affirmative; that will happen in March."

▪ **Bill** apologized for failing to distribute *The Lakeshorian* for February 20<sup>th</sup>. "If and when that happens in the future," he added, "there are two things you can...and should...do. First, email me that you didn't receive the bulletin, and secondly, remember that *The Lakeshorian* gets posted to our Rotary club website ([www.rotarymontreallakeshore.org](http://www.rotarymontreallakeshore.org)), usually on Monday, every week. You can save a tree by reading it there online or download it for your later reading pleasure."

Asked if he had a joke for us, **Bill** said he did. "An 85-year-old couple, having been married almost 60 years, died in a car crash.

They had been in good health the last ten years mainly due to the wife's interest in health, food, and exercise.

When they reached the Pearly Gates, St. Peter took them to their mansion, which was decked out with a beautiful kitchen and master bedroom with bath en suite and a Jacuzzi.

As they "oohed and aahed" the old man asked St. Peter how much all this was going to cost. "It's free," St. Peter replied, "this is Heaven after all."

Next, they went out back to survey the championship golf course their new home backed up to. They would have golfing privileges every day and each week the course would change to a new one, representing the great golf courses on earth. At the clubhouse a lavish buffet lunch had ben laid out, with the cuisines of the world. And all this cost-free of course.

"Well, where are the low fat and low cholesterol tables?" the old man asked timidly. St. Peter lectured, "That's the best part...you can eat as much as you like of whatever you like and you never get fat and you never get sick. This is Heaven."

With that the old man went into a fit of anger, throwing down his hat and stomping on it. St. Peter and the missus both tried to calm him down, asking him what was wrong. The old man looked at his wife and said, "This is all your fault! If it

weren't for your damned bran muffins, I could have been here ten years ago!"

Our weekly fundraiser, the 50-50 draw once again failed to produce a winner, so the pot will continue to grow, to the benefit of the club and the eventual winner.

Community Service chair **Brenda** had cheques to present. First, she invited our speaker, **Marie Pier** from *West Island Women's Shelter*, to come forward to receive our donation of \$1,000.



Brenda's second cheque was presented to **Kim Reid** of *On Rock Community Services*, also for \$1,000.



Brenda said she had found two articles on social media about On Rock Ministries, 'a community organization committed to making a difference in the Montreal area by being a resource for people in the community. This takes various forms, including a Food Bank, a School Lunch Program, and a Community Diner. [Excerpted from

On Rock's web site. Ed.]

Brenda went on to explain that "On Rock has recently suffered two setbacks: The roof of the building they're in sprang a leak and their van broke down. Fortunately, a courier company on the West Island learned of their plight and has loaned them three vans for food deliveries, for as long as they need. Good Samaritans indeed!"

**Ken** told us they would host an annual fundraising event on February 24<sup>th</sup>. "It's called COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR," he said, "but in spite of it being always held in February it has never come even close to being the coldest night. It's basically a walk-a-thon and a chili supper is offered to participants. So feel free to come and join us."

A busy bee last week, was our **Brenda**. Her next task was to introduce our speaker. "Graduate of l'Université de Montréal in Psychology in 2010, Marie Pier joined the West Island Women's Shelter in 2011. She began as a counsellor for women victims of conjugal violence. A little over two years later, still working with women, she moved to External Services and has been there for four years.

"As part of her mandate, Marie has accompanied women in the process of devictimization and empowerment, as well as in the deconstruction of the consequences of violence on them as women.

"Now, Marie Pier is the counsellor responsible for outreach and awareness in the community."

With the aid of an informative PowerPoint, **Marie** presented the West Island Women's Shelter's history, mission and values.

We were not allowed a copy of Ms. Pier's presentation. Rather, she invited us to take information about the shelter from their website, [www.wiws.ca](http://www.wiws.ca). Hereunder is a condensed summary of the shelter's history, its mission and its values.

On February 6, 1979, the Shelter was incorporated. Finally, there was a safe place for both women and children victims of conjugal violence. Their first "home" was purchased in 1982.

"In 2006, we constructed "Alternat'Elle", our second stage house to meet the post separation security needs of our women who are now the heads of single parent households.

"The mission of the shelter's team is to work for social change, aiming at the elimination of conjugal violence and its impact on women and their children. We attain it by:

- Promoting social, economic and political equality;
- Providing and manage a front line shelter for women victims of conjugal violence and their children;
- Providing and manage affordable housing for women victims of conjugal violence and their children;
- Intervening with women victims of conjugal violence and with their children;
- Providing outreach, education and prevention activities among the general public;
- Promoting the involvement of the community's members in the organization's mission.

"The West Island Women's Shelter's values:

Egalitarian relationship. We consider the other person our equal.

Solidarity. We encourage a bond of mutual benefit and reciprocity between individuals, based on a common interest.

Alliance. Developing a relationship of mutual trust among everyone residing at the shelter.

Transparency. Expressing the truth without transforming it.

Respect. We value the women, see her as a person of value and dignity, and accept her as a person, as she is.

Cooperation. To promote egalitarian relationships to block the domineering social values like individualism, competition, over-emphasis on performance and overconsumption. No secrets, no lies, no power games, no rescuing.

Autonomy. We will help you acquire and develop your personal, individual and collective empowerment, and follow a decision-making process of self-awareness through self-reflection, to help you become the actor of your own life.

"In addition to providing temporary shelter we have, over the years, developed various support services, such as a 24/7 crisis line, ongoing support, accompaniment and follow up services, which have also benefited many women and children who are not sheltered. We also offer information and awareness regarding domestic violence within the community."

Marie fielded many questions from the audience, always an indication of a well-received, interesting presentation. She was thanked by **Stan**, who told her our club was very familiar with the shelter through our long-time relationship with Gloria Sweeney, who still serves on your Board of Directors.

