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Rotary



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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This Week's Program...

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries...

Happy Anniversary, Andy & Kathleen...

...Monday, March 19th!

Future Programs...

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

Mar 27: **Lorena Morante**, Coordinator with *Encounters With Canada*, will bring us up to date on this multi-theme program, Canada's largest youth forum for students aged 14 to 17. We first sent a student to EWC in 2014-2015.

Apr 3: **NO MEETING (Tuesday after Easter)**

Apr 10: **[Evening meeting]** Our annual **Alan Liddiard Public Speaking Competition**.

Special Events...

Mar 24: **RLI – Rotary Leadership Institute**, Ramada Inn, 805 Brookdale Ave., Cornwall, 7:45 am to 4:45 pm.

Apr 20: (Friday, 5 to 7 pm) **LAST** opportunity this Rotary year to qualify for 2018-19 grant funding. NAV Centre, 1950 Montreal Road, Cornwall, 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...

Irwin Kumka, from the Rotary Club of Winnipeg West, told us about the new **Rotary Adventure in Human Rights** program, a collaborative effort of District 5550 with Rotary World Peace Partners and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

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

We were also pleased to welcome our speaker Irwin's wife **Karen**, as well as **Joe Tabet** and **Jo-Anne Shimodi**, guests of the club.

Murray gave us an update on our auction. "Prizes are coming in, such as a shopping spree for Danesco products,

donated by **Knud**, and a three-month membership for spa and gym, donated by **Rosie**. The rate at which prizes are arriving is a little slower than last year. Money is not as plentiful and people are keeping an eye on their bottom line.

On the subject of **Youth Service** Murray said **Cameron** would update us on the Alan Liddiard Public Speaking Contest. Murray added that he has been in touch with the contact people at area high schools regarding Rotary Adventures and Encounters With Canada opportunities for their students.

Cameron said, "So far we have four students for our speaking competition, which will take place at our April 10th evening meeting. We will ask the Holiday Inn to let us use the large conference room downstairs, as we did last year. We hope to recruit two more and we are also looking for judges, so if anyone wishes to be a judge, please drop me a line. Otherwise I'll appoint you."

Asked if **Phil Méthot** from the Pointe-Claire Toastmasters Club would once again serve as our chief judge, Cameron said he would. "Phil and I have been corresponding; we're tweaking the rules a little bit," he added.

Joe had a blonde joke for us. "A blonde and her husband are lying in bed listening to the next door neighbor's dog. It has been in the backyard barking for hours and hours. The blonde jumps up out of bed and says, 'I've had enough of this'. She goes downstairs. The blonde finally comes back up to bed and her husband says 'The dog is still barking, What have you been doing?' The blonde says, 'I put the dog in our backyard, let's see how THEY like it!'"

Brenda told us we are now confirmed for helping out at the Welcome Hall Mission grocery store on Wednesday, March 21st, from 12:45 to 3 pm. Additional volunteers welcome. She also confirmed that (1) the date of our next visit to the Old Brewery Mission is June 21st, at 3:30 pm; and (2) Ken Reid of On Rock Community Services will speak to our club on May 22nd.

Our speaker was introduced by **Carol**, who confirmed that Irwin Kumka is a member of the Winnipeg West Rotary Club. She went on to say, "He and his wife Karen have two children, a son and his family, who live in Alberta, and a daughter and her family, who live just down the street, on Longmore Avenue. She is a doctor at the MUHC in the Emergency Room, because she enjoys emergency issues in medicine. She's expecting in May, the Kumkas' grandchild number five. 'If it's a boy,' Irwin says, 'he is in real danger of being totally spoiled.' Please join me in welcoming our speaker, Irwin Kumka."

Irwin began by telling us that, unlike Montreal, "Winnipeg has a hockey team that is winning. Maybe one of these days we will even get a chance at the Stanley Cup.

"A little bit of personal history. This is my 40th year as a Rotarian--I was 14 when I joined," he joked. "A number of years ago I was doing some work with David Newman who, at the time, was chair of a District 5550 endeavour called World Peace Partners. I asked him to tell me about WPP. He told me, 'There's a Board meeting tonight. We've got some really good

things.' So I went to the Board meeting and partway through I went to the bathroom. When I got back I was the chair (laughter) of a new WPP program called Rotary Adventure in Human Rights.

"My presentation tonight is made up of three parts. First, we want to share with you the vision of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. For those of you who may have been to Winnipeg recently, you may have seen this absolutely outstanding facility. It's the only federal museum located outside of Ottawa. It was built largely with private sector money, headed up by the late Israel Asper.* The federal government is responsible for the operating budget but the vast majority of the 400 million dollars that was used to build the facility was raised through private sector contributions."

[*Israel Asper, OC, OM, QC, LLD, a philanthropist and founder of CanWest Global Communications Corp. Ed.]



"The second part of the presentation will provide a little bit of detail about how the Rotary Adventure in Human Rights operates," Irwin told us.

[The following was extracted from the R.I website: (<https://www.rotary.org/en/somali-refugee-spreads-peace-rotary-fellow>) CTRL + Click to follow the link. Ed.]

Originally from Somalia, Abdikheir "Abdi" Ahmed and his family fled the conflict there and settled in Kenya when he was a child.

As a young adult, he moved to Canada as part of the national resettlement program. He began working with refugee children who were struggling in school while attending the University of Winnipeg, where he earned a degree in international development in 2007.

After graduation, Ahmed began working at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba.

He learned about the [Rotary Peace Centers](#) program from Noëlle DePape, a colleague who had earned her master's degree at the University of Queensland, Australia, through the fellowship.

After Ahmed completed his own peace fellowship at Queensland, he and DePape worked together to develop a curriculum for a summer course that they teach to high school students at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, part of a Rotary District 5550 (Manitoba and parts of Ontario and Saskatchewan) program called Adventures in Human Rights.



'We help them view the world from the perspective that everyone's rights are equal and understand the idea of building a community where everyone's rights are respected and each person is given a fair opportunity,' Ahmed says.

In January 2016, in recognition of his work, Ahmed received the Order of the Buffalo Hunt, one of the highest honours for public achievement issued by the Manitoba legislature.

The following text was taken from slides of Irwin's PowerPoint entitled, Rotary Adventure in Human Rights (RAHR):

Mission Statement for RAHR:

- To promote world peace and understanding, by providing an opportunity to the youth of the world, to experience the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, to explore Manitoba, to learn about Rotary and to interact with like-minded citizens of the world.
- Students are housed at the U of W new student dorm called McFeetors Hall
- Three days at the CMHR
- Every other day visiting venues in and around Winnipeg
- Fort Whyte Centre to learn about environment sustainability
- A day at the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) to learn first hand about the plight of refugees
- A community barbeque in Central Park
- A dinner at Government House hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Janice Filmon

Four areas of study:

- Indigenous Rights
- Women's Rights
- Democratic Rights
- Rights of the sustainability of our environment

Program Cost:

- The total cost of the program is approximately \$1,200 per student, and includes housing, food and transportation for the 6 day program.
- We do not cover the cost of transporting the student to and from Winnipeg



RAHR 2018: Be part of the change you want to see!

Sponsor a student.

Murray said, "Our Youth Committee will give serious consideration to sending a student."

Irwin's presentation included two videos that highlighted some of the 75 actual students who have participated during the past three years and their reactions to the program.

[Both videos were huge files (over 3 GB in total), so we are unable to put them (or a link to the PowerPoint that contained them) on our website. Ed.]

As usually happens when we have a program that impresses our members, there were questions aplenty, especially about the museum for human rights.

Stan thanked **Irwin** for his "thoroughly interesting program, well presented, and for patiently answering all our questions."

