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Rotary



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

Chartered February 27, 1961

This Week's Program...

[Evening meeting] Our annual **Alan Liddiard Public Speaking Competition**. In order to preserve an environment of fairness, we won't say more about it at this time.

We do, however, urge all members to attend the meeting. It is always one of the best programs of the year.

Birthdays & Anniversaries...

Happy Birthday, Ruth (Knud's wife).... Today, April 10th!

Future Programs...

Apr 17: **Murray** will give us an update on...and, perhaps, a sneak peek at...our **10th Annual Charity Auction**, which will take place at the Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire on **Friday, June 1st, 2018**.

Apr 24: **Carol** will conduct a **Membership Workshop**.

May 1: International Service Chair **Deniz** will present **Jean Gagnon** and **Fatima Langlois**, from *Fondation Coup de Coeur*, to talk about their **Goodwill Clean Water Project** in Bolgatanga, Ghana.

Special Events...

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.]

Apr 28 – May 2: **Adventure in Citizenship** program, Ottawa.

Last Week's Meeting...

The short version is, "There was no meeting last Tuesday."

The reason is that it was the Tuesday following Easter (and during Passover), so members were spending time with their families.

However, given that this week we will be hosting high school seniors for our Alan Liddiard Public Speaking Competition, we thought that it wouldn't hurt to tell them, and their family members who might be present, something about Rotary.

So, what is Rotary anyway?

Well, for one thing, it's the world's first service club organization, founded in 1905. The idea must have caught on for Rotary was soon followed by Kiwanis in 1915, Lions in 1917 and Optimists in 1918.

Officially, Rotary is defined as "an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world."

In fact it is an association of local clubs gathered into a worldwide organization, along with Interact clubs for high school students and Rotaract clubs for college students and other young adults in the 18-30 age range. The individual Rotarian or Rotaractor or Interactor — the heart and soul of Rotary — is a member of his or her local club, which is in turn a member of Rotary International, headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, where Rotary began in 1905.

Paul Harris, a young lawyer from Vermont who had recently moved to Chicago, decided it would help his practice grow if he could build a circle of business acquaintances, meeting periodically to discuss what they could do to improve their vocational and social communities. The first meeting of four such friends took place in the evening of February 23rd, 1905. The four men decided to form a club and ask others to join, with weekly meetings that would be held at each member's office, on a rotating basis, so they called it, "The Rotary Club of Chicago."

Today, there are almost 2 million Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors, in 69,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographical areas around the globe. A new Rotary, Rotaract or Interact club is chartered somewhere in the world every eight hours.

Service to the local community has always been a point of focus for Rotary clubs. Under the guidance of **Brenda Scalzo**, our Community Service chair, we are very active in this field.

On the international front, one of Rotary's greatest achievements was established when Rotary was only 12 years old. The Rotary Foundation was created in 1917 as "an endowment fund ... for the purpose of doing good in the world." International Service continues to be an important global initiative for Rotarians and our club is also active on a global scale.

Service to Youth is also one of our highest priorities, as we can see this very evening.

In 1985, Rotarians around the globe decided to embark on a program to rid the world of polio and other child-crippling diseases. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.7 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$7.2 billion to the effort. The wild polio virus remains only in Afghanistan and Pakistan

With our environmental projects, programs to combat drug abuse and illiteracy, and our work all over the world to improve the quality of life for all of humanity, Rotary improves the lot of everyone in the communities we serve.

The 4-Way Test of the things we think say or do is a set of four questions Rotarians ask themselves before embarking on any business decision, however small.

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?