



# The Lakeshorian

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## Rotary



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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

[NO MEETING TODAY...or Tonight]



### *Birthdays & Anniversaries...*

- Happy Birthday, Brenda ..... Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>!*
- Happy Birthday, Pam Neville ..... Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>!*
- Happy Birthday, Gerry Zemanovich ..... Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>!*
- Happy Birthday, Margaret Martin ..... Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>!*
- Happy Birthday, Paula ..... Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>!*

### *Future Programs...*

- Apr 10: [Evening meeting] Our annual **Alan Liddiard Public Speaking Competition**.
- Apr 17: **Murray** will give us an update on...and, perhaps, a sneak peek at...our **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Auction**, which will take place at the Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire on **Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**.
- Apr 24: **Carol** will conduct a Membership Workshop.

### *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...*

President **Helen** was unable to be present so President-elect **Murray** chaired our meeting.

**Lorena Morante** told us about *Encounters With Canada*, a program for Canadian teens to meet other young people from across Canada, spend an adventure-filled week in Ottawa, discovering our country and checking out future career options.

Active Rotary club members present were **Lawrence, Rosie, Esin, Stan, Bill, Carol, Murray, Semi, Şehnaz, Glofe, Sade, Sola, Knud, Brenda, Emily** and **Cameron**. Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell** was also present.

There were no other guests or visiting Rotarians.

After welcoming everyone and offering *Happy Birthday* wishes to the six ladies who will celebrate birthdays prior to our next Rotary club meeting, acting President **Murray** gave us an update on our Auction. He had distributed copies of last year's Auction brochure and flyer to each table. "I also have copies of the Letter of Introduction for those who would like to have one to hand out to prospective donors and advertisers.

"During the coming weeks we will update the auction flyer as new items and prizes are received.

"We are still looking for gifts for the International Food Basket, which **Rosie** is putting together, and more items for our *Lucky Draw* and for the live auction itself. If you have such items to offer, please bring them to future Rotary club meetings or give them to a member of the Auction Committee."

**Emily** told us **Kaetlyn Osmond** won Gold at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships, our first women's figure skating crown in 45 years. [The last Canadian woman to win gold at the Worlds was Karen Magnussen, in 1973. *Ed.*]

**Murray** reported on our **Youth Committee**. "Yesterday, **Rosie** and I met with two students, from West Island College and Beaconsfield High School, both of whom had applied to attend the *Adventure in Citizenship*, April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ottawa. **Rosie** and I were impressed by how articulate and how poised both students were during their interviews. Both students are from immigrant backgrounds, so they have an excellent appreciation of the value of Canadian citizenship. One is bilingual—French and English with a smattering of Urdu; the other is trilingual—Italian as well as French and English.

"We would like to send both to this Adventure, so I've asked for a second spot in the program. These two young people would be great ambassadors for the West Island and for youth going forward. The Citizenship program organizers tell me that we will learn early next week if another spot is available. If not, we will have to choose which student to send."

**Cameron** gave us an update on our annual **Alan Liddiard Public Speaking Competition**, which will take place at our next meeting, April 10<sup>th</sup>, in the larger *Merlot Room*, as needed to accommodate the 40 or so people we expect to be present.

"We have our judges: **Emily, Rosie, Deniz** and Chief Judge **Phil Méthot**, Past President of the Pointe-Claire Toastmasters.

"At this time we have four contestants and, although we might get one more, that is unlikely, with Passover and Easter holidays between now and April 10<sup>th</sup>."

For our 50/50 draw **Brenda** won the right to 'Chase the Ace' but turned over the Queen of Hearts instead. **Cameron** said we have over \$700 in each pot—the club's and the future winner's.

Invited to introduce our speaker, **Emily** told us, "**Lorena Morante**, B.Ed., is an education and communications coordinator. For 15 years she coordinated *The Gazette's* award-winning Newspaper-in-Education program and worked on other literacy programs in our Montreal community.

"She moved into Advertising and for the next 11 years coordinated *The Gazette's* special sections, magazines and sponsored content, both in print and online.

"Since leaving *The Gazette* she feels very much at home as regional coordinator for **Encounters With Canada**, our country's largest educational youth forum that allows high school students to develop citizenship and leadership skills and explore possible careers."

**Lorena** thanked us for giving her the opportunity to tell us what she has been doing for the past year. "I've been visiting schools all over Montreal with Ellen Laughlin who, as you know, was the previous Encounters With Canada coordinator until she retired last year. Ellen and I had worked together for 12 years on the Newspaper-in-Education program at *The Gazette*.

"Before we get into the nuts and bolts of Encounters, I'd like to share a letter I received from Anna, a student at Westmount High School who chose one of five Medicine & Health weeks offered by EWC during every school year. She writes, 'My week at Encounters was truly one of the most life-changing experiences I've ever known. I managed to make friendships that I hope will last me a lifetime. As well I was able to further my knowledge of a potential career I wish to pursue. My experience was nothing less than amazing. Over the course of the week I learned about chiropractic, midwifery and the determination required to work in the medical field. Learning about these professions just motivated me even further into wanting to pursue my dream of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon, and gave me a realistic view of the difficulties I would face.

'One of my other favourite memories was when we visited a farm near Ottawa. Not only was it a great learning experience, it gave me a new respect for animals and all they do for us.

'Overall, my week at Encounters has changed my life for the better. Thank you for allowing me to have this amazing opportunity, for which I will forever be grateful.' "

With the aid of a very informative PowerPoint presentation, Lorena went on to tell us all about Encounters With Canada.

#### What is Encounters With Canada?

- Canada's largest and foremost youth forum, aimed at students ages 14 to 17.
- Affiliated with Historica Canada, but not a government program. It does, however, receive funding from the federal government and some provincial governments.
- EWC also relies on funding and partnerships with different organizations, corporations and foundations, including *Canadian Heritage*, *Veterans Affairs* and others.
- Recognized by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program.
- Extensive network of educators who promote EWC in schools across the country, as well as volunteer professionals who come to Ottawa to provide workshops for the students.
- EWC's basic goals are to develop citizenship and leadership skills and to explore possible future careers.
- 120 to 150 students from across Canada come to Ottawa to participate in EWC every week of the school year.
- Students stay at the Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre.
- Each chooses a week based on student's area of interest.
- Young Canadians from every province and territory attend the program, forming a quasi "mini-Canada" representation, a veritable snapshot of Canada's population.

"About half of the EWC program is similar every week. It starts off with a motivation speaker who talks about pursuing your dreams, being involved in, and giving back to, the community. For the sports week it might be an Olympic athlete; for the Arts week it might be an actor or a musician. Over the years they have had many distinguished guests. I have a list of many special guests, ever since EWC began in 1982.



"The students also get a tour of Ottawa, including a VIP tour of Parliament, a visit to the Senate, Question Period in the House and visits to some of Ottawa's amazing museums.

"Every week there is a Peace Module, where a Canadian Forces officer talks about Canada's global peace missions and takes them to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial.

"One evening the students get together in groups by province and do a skit to tell the others about their province or territory. There is also a cultural evening where they go to a play, concert or sports event.

Every EWC week ends with a banquet and a dance.

The other half of the program is devoted to the specific theme for that week. There are 14 different theme weeks, spread over 27 weeks of the school year. In-demand themes are repeated several times in the year. Lorena showed us a slide of the various theme weeks for the 2017-18 school year. She said she would soon have the theme weeks for the 2018-19 year and will pass it on to Murray when she receives it.

The 14 themes are: Arts & Culture; Canada Remembers, about why we celebrate Remembrance Day; Communications & Social Media; Democracy & Youth; Experience Canada, designed for new and first-generation Canadians but now open to all; First Responders; Global Affairs; Law & Our Justice System; Medicine & Health; Science & Technology; Sports & Fitness; Food & Technology (using technology to meet the demands of global hunger) and Vimy Week — Canada's Coming of Age, also a military history week, focussing on the Battle of Vimy Ridge during the First World War.

Every Encounters With Canada week is jam-packed with activities, Lorena told us—workshops; presentations given by experts and professionals; hands-on activities, and a wide variety of outings—all tailored to the theme of that particular week.

Every participant is invited to join the EWC Alumni community and be a part of an exclusive club of over 110,000 past participants, with local chapters—lasting friendships with other alumni across Canada and even within the same town or city.

"Who attends Encounters With Canada?" Lorena asked, then answered the question. "They are outgoing, confident leaders, who take part in many activities in their schools and communities, have a lot of potential and are not afraid of hard work."

She spoke about the cost, and the value of sponsorships like our Rotary club represents, for example. The cost, which will be \$750 for the 2018-19 year, includes everything—housing, all meals and activities, even return transportation to Ottawa from wherever in Canada the student lives. She said she was delighted when **Emily** told her our club had agreed to sponsor **Hanna**, a remarkable student at Riverdale High School, to attend the Science & Ecology week, April 22-28, and that we plan to sponsor another student next year as well. Lorena read a letter from Hanna telling a lot about herself and her role in her family that includes a sibling with special care needs.

Lorena closed with a promotional video produced by EWC.

**Cameron** thanked Lorena for her informative presentation. He also suggested she approach Rotary at the District level, where she could reach over 60 Canadian Rotary clubs by giving her presentation at a District Conference, for example.

