



The Lakeshore

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BE THE INSPIRATION WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE
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This Week's Program...

[Evening meeting] **Kemba Mitchell**, chairperson of *West Island Black Community Association*, will join us as we present a scholarship, on behalf of our club's Youth Committee, to a recipient chosen by WIBCA's scholarship committee.

Murray, our new club president, will also take a few minutes to tell us about changes we will see in the year ahead.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

Happy Birthday, JP Friday, the 13th of July, 2018!

Future Programs...

Jul 17: A "working meeting," perhaps part of the changes we may see this year. This one will be about committees and new committee member allocation.

Jul 24: **Tamara Stycek**, one of the two students we sponsored for the **Adventure in Citizenship** April 28th to May 2nd, will talk about her experience.

Jul 31: **[No meeting]** Rotary Summer Holiday.

Special Events...

July 14: [Saturday] Our annual **Changeover Party**, at the Cantrills', 1412 chemin St-Féréol, Les Cèdres, Québec J7T 1N8, from 3 p.m. until it's over.

More about today's program...

There was no meeting last Tuesday, as it was the Tuesday following a national holiday, in this case Canada Day.

But let me fill in the unacceptably empty space remaining in this week's issue by telling you, dear readers, about WIBCA.

The **West Island Black Community Association** is dedicated to extending its programs for the benefit of all, regardless of ethnic origin, color, gender, religion or race, and to be integrated as a vibrant part of society by continuously increasing the participation in our programs to reach more youths, adults and seniors.

Our Mission

- To educate the public on health issues, various cultures and multiculturalism.
- To relieve loneliness and isolation associated with aging and to provide recreational, educational and cultural activities for senior citizens.
- To operate a drop-in centre for youths, providing counseling, educational and recreational activities in a supervised setting.
- To provide academic scholarships to youths for the purpose of furthering their education.
- To do all such things that are ancillary and incidental to the achievement of the above charitable objectives.

- To raise funds, collect and receive monies and properties by contributions, gifts, legacies, bequests and grants to be used to promote and foster the objectives of the association.

At WIBCA, we aim to conduct ourselves with personal integrity, ethics, honesty and diligence in performing the duties of the Organization.

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On February 12th of this year, **Frank Baylis**, MP for the riding of Pierrefonds-Dollard, had this to say about retiring WIBCA President Williams and her successor, Kemba Mitchell:

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay homage to Ms. Elizabeth-Ann Williams, who, for over 25 years, has been volunteering with the West Island Black Community Association. WIBCA, as it is known, is a wonderful organization that provides programs, workshops, and social activities for all in the region. She cemented her place in the organization in May of 2014 by becoming its president.

"In recognition of her contribution to the city's development, Ms. Williams was named *Bâtisseuse de la cite 2017* by the City of Montreal.

"I am happy to say that WIBCA is now under the leadership of another lady, the young and dynamic Kemba Mitchell, and I am certain that the organization will continue to prosper and flourish under her leadership.

"To all black women who have worked tirelessly to make a difference in our communities, I say that we see them, we hear their voices, and we thank them.

Kemba Mitchell, a forward-looking young professional who recently took the reins of leadership at WIBCA, says she is mindful of the contributions of those ahead of her and is excited about the opportunity to build on the foundation that's in place.



"My intention is not to reinvent the wheel, but to do what I can to position WIBCA for the future," she says, "And I'm hoping to use technology as much as I can to help us get there. It's all part of shifting the culture within the association to continue to serve the adults and seniors, while trying to recruit and accommodate a new crop of young members.

"Ultimately, the goal is to engage young people and get them involved in the association," she says. "One thing I know is we have to find non-traditional ways to deal with them because they don't want to come to a centre and feel as if they're in a classroom."

Mitchell says she has a soft spot for working with young people because her initial involvement with WIBCA about nine years ago was as a youth worker when she organized a program for a group of teenagers. "It's up to us," she says, "to get them to see the benefits of volunteering. My goal is to convince them that they all have skills that can be useful to the community." [An excerpt from an article by Egbert Gaye, editor, *Montreal Community Contact*. Ed.]