



The Lakeshore

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BE THE INSPIRATION WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE
Chartered February 27, 1961

This Week's Program...

Maricarmen Raudales, Programs Director of Health Partners International of Canada, will give us a Virtual Reality presentation. She will bring several headsets and headphones to allow the members of the audience to view a 5-minute Virtual Reality video that will transport them 'virtually' to the field with a Canadian team taking HPIC's Humanitarian Medical Kits on their medical mission to Haiti.

Birthdays this week ...

None that we know of, but Knud and Ruth will be celebrating their anniversary next Tuesday, August 28th.

Future Programs...

August is *Membership & New Club Development Month*.

Aug 28: **Tania Shand**, Volunteer Coordinator for Ste-Anne's Hospital, will talk to us about end-of-life palliative care services offered to the residents of Ste-Anne's. We will also present her with 46 radio/CD players for her patients.

September is *New Generations Month*

- Sep 4: **NO MEETING** [Tuesday after Labour Day]
Sep 11: **Emily** has invited **Kim Fuller**, Founder & Creative Director, Phil Communications, who will conduct a workshop on *Fundraising*.
Sep 18: **Ryan Li** of the Rotaract Club of Downtown Montreal.

Special Events...

- Aug 25: District International Service and Rotary Foundation meeting, Immanuel Christian Reformed Church Hall, 2264 Pitt St., Cornwall, ON K6K 1A3, 9:30---12:30.
Aug 25: Grants Management Seminar, Immanuel Christian Reformed Church Hall, 2264 Pitt St., Cornwall, ON K6K 1A3, 1:00—3:30.
Aug 27: We will help Héma Québec with The Graham Martin Memorial Blood Donor Clinic, Kirkland Sports Complex, 16950 Blvd Hymus; Kirkland.
Oct 26-28: **District Conference**, Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 285 King Street East, Kingston ON.
Nov 2: Our annual **Oyster Party**, 300 Surrey Drive, Baie d'Urfé (Rescue Squad's Training Centre).

Last week's meeting...

Last Tuesday **PDG Bill**, along with long-standing members **Wayne** and **Stan**, gave us info about the early days of our club.

Members present were **Wayne, Rosie, Stan, Bill, Carol, Murray, Sola, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Cameron, David** and our three **Joe's...Maxwell, Tabet and Zemanovich**.

We were also pleased to welcome **Ginny Briggs**, who said she was a fan of Myles Birket Foster, a 19th century artist and engraver. She told us she has lived on the West Island all her life and wanted to know what our Rotary club was all about.

We were also delighted to welcome **PDG Drew Webster**, guest of **PDG Bill**, Bill's wife, **June**, and **Anita**, guest of **Stan**.

President **Murray** told us, "I'm delighted so many members of our club responded favourably to my request for AM-FM radio/CD players. To quote Margaret Mead '*Never doubt that a few caring people can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*' Tania was looking for 30 radios. We now have 45. I will speak to Brenda to ask Tania if she wants the 15 extra radios or if she would prefer to have the cash equivalent."

Stan announced that he had several dozen photos from the early days of our club. He offered to split them into smaller batches. "Members can pass them around from table to table."

Wayne won the right to try to find the Ace of Spades, but he found the Ace of Diamonds instead. So the pot will continue to grow, to the benefit of the club and the eventual winner.

Cameron introduced our three presenters, saying, "They were members even before Rotary allowed ladies into the organization. So you're looking at three dinosaurs up here. He went on to give a very brief bio of each of the three.

Bill had a few words to say about **PDG Drew**. "When he was president of the Rotary Club of Montreal, he hosted the 66th annual Rotary International convention in June 1975. He served as our District Governor in '83-'84. We are honoured to have him visit us today. Our club is 57 years old. On October 2nd, the Rotary Club of Montreal will be 105 years young!"

Before Bill started his presentation, he had a "Moment of Mirth," as President Murray calls it...

During an overnight at a hotel away from home, I took my computer down to the bar to do some data entries.

Sitting down at the bar and I asked the bartender, "What's the Wi-Fi password?"

"You need to buy a drink first," he replied.

"Okay," I said. "I'll have a beer."

"We have Molson's Canadian on tap," he said.

"Sure," I said. "How much is that?"

"Eight dollars," I was told.

"Ok. Here you are. Now, what's the Wi-Fi password?"

"youneedtobuyadrinkfirst, all lower case, no spaces."

Bill's PowerPoint was short and to the point. Entitled "RCML, the Early Years," it covered the first 25 years of our Rotary club, from 1961 to 1986. A copy of the presentation, as a PDF file, is available by email upon request. It is under 5MB in size.

He began by pointing out that The Rotary Club of Montreal was our sponsor club and his first slide showed the President of the Montreal club, Mackay Smith, conferring with District

Governor 'Sainty' Holland and our charter president, Keith Dancy, a Rotarian from London, Ontario, who had moved to Montreal to become VP of CFOX radio.

His next slide was our club's official Rotary International certificate, more commonly known as our Charter. "Over 200 people attended our club's Charter Night at the Edgewater hotel."

He described several early club projects that became annual events, including a scholarship ball—"In 1963 we instituted this tradition, to raise funds to provide scholarships to deserving West Island students. During the period 1965 to 1970, more than \$30,000 in cash grants were awarded! In other years we sometimes used the ball to salute a state, such as Texas, or a country, such as Brazil, or even an entire group of countries, such as Scandinavia, pictured here with **Knud**, our president at the time.

"Also in 1963 we organized a campaign with other service clubs, that raised a whopping \$200,000 to build the John F. Kennedy School on Elm Street in Beaconsfield! The highlight of the campaign was the 'Buy a Brick' night. Hundreds of high school students went door to door selling 25,000 bricks, at \$2 each and the John F. Kennedy School became a reality."

Knud reminded us to mention Jack McIntyre, a rose hybrid specialist who, as our club president in Canada's centennial year 1966-67, brought international recognition to our Rotary club when he developed the Canadian Centennial Rose, which led to the famous Rotary International Rose Garden at Expo '67. "Roses, the universal symbol of peace, were donated by 25 countries to populate that garden. The idea spread: A Rotary Peace Garden of roses at the 1970 World's Fair in Osaka, Japan. The planting of roses at Canada's parliament buildings—a Royal Canadian rose by Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, and a Peace Rose by Pierre Elliott Trudeau—the presentation of a painting of the famous Canadian Centennial Rose to Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace.

"Early Montreal-Lakeshore Rotary pioneers are still helping to move the club forward. **Wayne** and **Knud**, who joined the club in 1970, and **Stan** in 1971, became the driving force behind the growing success of our club's fundraising and charitable activities.

"In August 1979, under the leadership of President **Knud**, we arranged for ten West Island students to visit France, where they were hosted by Rotarian families there.

"Also in 1979, with Past President **Bert Hyman**, our club introduced *Junior Achievement* (now called *Jeunes Entreprises*) to Quebec, with an initial grant of \$8,000.

"When refugees fled communist-controlled Vietnam in 1979 following the Vietnam War, many found refuge in Canada. Our club welcomed some of these 'boat people,' as they were called, and gave them dishes, cutlery and other household supplies to start their new lives here on the West Island.

"Our club was also very active in Rotary's Group Study Exchange program which, unfortunately, no longer exists. In the early eighties we hosted a team of young professionals from South Africa, pictured here (with thanks to Joe Maxwell for the photograph)

"We had a lot of fun in years gone by. We went to horse races at Bluebonnets. We went bowling. **Cameron** took us 'Curling for Pizza', whether you knew how to curl or not. And we have had a sugaring-off party every spring until very recently.

"The following slides will illustrate how we celebrated Halloween or other special occasion with an elaborate costume party and dance.

"This is Past President and PDG 'Sheik' Louis Joron and his lovely wife, Odette. Next slide, on the right we have Stan as 'Boy George' with his lovely wife, Anita.

"And, on those special occasions, **George Saad** managed to find us an authentic and exotic belly dancer from his native Egypt.

"Pictured here as the devil himself is the late **Mike Cushen** and his dear wife, **Dale**.

"And this trio of pictures features Past President Ralph and Terry Warren and Gerry and Paula Mancini, all in their religious costumes; Winn Maxwell adjusting Joe's diaper; and 'Boy George' June and Bill as Willy Nelson."

Bill said he was "very proud to be your president in 1985-86, to help us celebrate our 25th birthday."

He closed with a list of six past presidents during our club's first 25 years who are still members today:

- 1976-77 Wayne Belvedere
- 1977-78 Joseph Zemanovich
- 1979-80 Knud Petersen
- 1982-83 Stan Frost
- 1983-84 George Saad
- 1985-86 Bill Hodges

Bill then asked Wayne and Stan to tell us a few anecdotes from those early days.

Wayne said he had a side story to add about our club's Rose project. "The Centennial Rose developed by our club through Jack McIntyre was actually second choice in the quality of the rose that was being developed at that time. The rose bushes were from Texas and the supplier could only give us so many of each type of bush. He didn't have enough of the first choice, so the rose that actually became the Centennial Rose was the second choice. Our Rose project led to many other developments, including a new pattern for Royal Doulton china. Over the years millions of dollars were raised in a variety of fields.

"Another story about Jack McIntyre, who was always first and foremost a promoter. When he developed the Peace Rose for the United Nations he had ordered 200,000 little yellow roses but they were shipped to Toronto instead of Montreal, where they were needed the next morning. 'What am I going to do?' he asked me. 'Jack,' I told him, 'I'm on my way to Toronto.' We drove there and back, took us all night, but the roses arrived here in time for our fundraiser.

"I joined the club just before our 10th anniversary. In those early days we used to fine members for simple transgressions like forgetting to wear your Rotary pin. The typical fine was 25 cents. But at one evening event, our founding President Keith Dancy fired Reed Barnes as Sergeant-at-Arms and said 'I'm taking over. I have a deck of cards and the fine will depend on what card you pick from the deck: \$2 for a two of any suit, \$3 for a three, up to \$10 for a ten, ace or a face card.' I got the lucky number and I turn up the Ace of Spades. I get a \$10 fine. Reed Barnes came up and no matter what card he turned over, he would only pay 25 cents 'because that's what the bylaws allow.' We raised a lot of money that night and it started a new fundraising scheme.



"Some of the costume parties were a lot of fun. There are a lot of side stories to those parties too. The pictures Bill showed you were taken in the main ballroom at the Airport Hilton. But the party after the party was in a special room available to us because the Assistant Manager was a member of our Rotary club. We had all had a lot to drink so we were going to stay in the hotel and go home after breakfast the next morning. But, as it turns out, the Assistant Manager and his wife had a disagreement that night and she threw her cocktail purse at him. He ducked and the purse landed flat against the door, sounding for all the world like a gunshot. Anita was so shocked she thought she had shot him. Anyway, the story goes on and on and finally we all go to bed around five o'clock in the morning, intending to meet downstairs for breakfast shortly after eight. When we got there the Assistant Manager's wife who had thrown the purse was holding court with the others, all waiting for us. "It's about time you got down here," she said. "And so we all had breakfast until ten o'clock. All of this to say that we sure knew how to have fun in those days. All right, Stan, it's your turn.

Emily asked if someone would say something about when Rotary allowed women to join for the first time. Stan said he would talk about that.

Stan said, "When Wayne first invited me to the club the president was René Haxaire. 'You've got to come to our summer party,' Wayne told me. We all went out to Pierre Arsenault's place where we had pony rides for the kids. We were just young couples then and we all had young children.

"When we had our weekly meetings in the Airport Hilton, we always met in the Petit Salon, where a bar was set up for our Happy Hour before the meeting. You could buy gin cheaper in a Martini than you could buy it at a liquor store. It took two waiters to keep our pre-meeting party going, then we marched in as a group to hold the meeting. Some of us went down to the bar again after the meeting for the 'meeting after the meeting.'

As Wayne told us, Reed Barnes was our Sergeant-at-Arms, who charged us a quarter if we didn't wear our Rotary pin, or for not wearing a jacket (another 25 cents) and tie (25 cents more). It was very formal in that sense, and it was men-only.

"We invited ladies to the club only on special occasions, like Valentine's Day or Secretary's Day. And members' wives were called 'Rotary Ann's'. I can tell you, Rotary changed for the better after women were allowed to become Rotarians. Those days of heavy drinking came to an abrupt end.

"On August 27th this year's blood drive will conclude with our blood donor clinic. I remember the first blood drive we had with our club. We held it at the Airport Hilton. A young member of our club, Ray Stevenson, had this great idea for our club. 'They're always looking for blood donors,' he told us. 'We used to do it at college.' And in those days we had to phone everybody. The whole thing was done by us. The Red Cross only took the blood from the patients; they had nothing to do with the blood drive arrangements. After you finished giving blood, Wayne had this idea that you should get a shot of cognac as a reward. All the hotel's employees showed up.

"Charter member Reed Barnes was our Sergeant-at-Arms, and bulletin editor.

"One of the other things we used to do for the kids of Big Brothers was to take them by bus down to Frontier Town in New York State. Some of those pictures I passed around were taken during one of those bus trips.

"We also used to have a Montreal Area Presidents' Council. It was continued, at least off and on, until quite recently. We used to hold those early MAPC meetings at the Mount Stephen Club. We would make great plans but then each club president had to go back and sell those plans and projects to their members. It was an interesting time for our local Rotary clubs.

"I remember once we had a visit from youngsters from one of the islands of the Caribbean; it might have been Jamaica. They had never seen snow before. We took them to Maurice Tremblay's place in Val Morin. We put them on skis and skates. It was so much fun to do things as a club outside of our weekly meetings."

Wayne pointed out that these exchanges were organized on a club-to-club basis, not part of an official Rotary International or District program.

"I remember our Brazil Night well because the incoming president was from Brazil [probably Ernesto I. de Mello, 1975-76 Ed.]. Do you remember that night, Knud? Victor Barmer had the ladies come dressed up in Brazilian outfits.

"Our club moved its meeting place twice during those early years. We started out at the Airport Hilton, then we moved to the Royal Saint Lawrence Yacht Club for a while, before coming here to the Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire."

Wayne said he had something to add. "Our main fundraising event was our annual golf tournament. It ran for 15 or 16 years. I used to promise, personally, that 'it won't rain on our golf tournament'. And it never did. One year, near the end of the series, it poured rain that morning. At 12 noon, just before we headed out to our carts to get ready for the shotgun start, I swear to God it stopped raining, the sun came out, and God blessed our Rotary club that day."

Stan said, "And do you remember, after we finished golfing the rain started again?"

Wayne reminisced also about our annual Oyster Party. "We get a liquor permit and pay for the oysters. I remember one year we opened the first case and found that the oysters had gone bad. I called the supplier at home. The result was that year we got the extra-select oysters, best you can buy. We started a little late but everybody has a good time and our Oyster Party became known as the best on the Island. That event moved, too. We started out in Landcare's garage, moved to the Baie d'Urfé Fire Hall and finally to our present location, the Baie d'Urfé Rescue Squad Training Centre. One time, when we were holding it in the fire hall, after it ended someone asked if we could take a ride on a fire truck. As it happened the Fire Chief was there and agreed that was a great idea. So we all got on the truck somewhere and we went down the 20 to Woodland, back to the fire hall, lights flashing, sirens blaring, and all this at three o'clock in the morning."

Stan said, "We always had a good time in this Rotary club. I remember going up to Pierre Leduc's summer place for great beach parties. They're in those pictures going around, too."

Emily reminded them to talk about when Rotary first let women join the club. **Drew** pointed out that it was contrary to Rotary's constitution and bylaws but the US Supreme Court ruled in May 1987 that women could no longer be excluded on the basis of gender.

