



The Lakeshore Rotarian

Vol. 2018-19
Issue No. 04
Tuesday
July 24th 2018

BE THE INSPIRATION WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

Chartered February 27, 1961

This Week's Program...

Stan will be our speaker today. He will explain how to access our website, He will also show us what info we can find on the district website. If members show interest, he might also take a look at Facebook and Twitter.

Tamara Stycek is unable to attend our meeting.

Birthdays this week and next week...

Happy Birthday, Margaret Moors Monday, July 30th!

Happy Birthday, Fran Hepworth Tuesday, July 31st!

Happy Birthday, Maureen Friday, August 3rd!

Happy Birthday, Knud Saturday, August 4th!

(No anniversaries that we know of during this period)

Future Programs...

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

Aug 7: **[Evening meeting]** This meeting will take place at the home of **Wayne** and **Sandy**—99 Churchill Street, Baie d'Urfé—where Wayne will hold a **BBQ/corn boil**. Bring family and friends.

Aug 14: T.B.D.

Special Events...

Aug 25: District International Service and Rotary Foundation meeting, Cornwall Lions Hall, 17413 McPhail Road, 9:30--12:30.

Aug 25: Grants Management Seminar, Cornwall Lions Hall, 17413 McPhail Road, 1:00—3:30.

Aug 27: We will help Héma Québec with the Graham Martin Memorial Blood Donor Clinic, Kirkland Sports Complex.

Last week's meeting...

We split up into four areas of interest, of which participating members were invited to choose one. The areas were **Youth**, **Community**, **Media**, and **International**. Each was assigned a table.

A summary of the discussion at each table will be sent via email to all club members.

We also enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation by **Knud** about the Guatemala project.

Unfortunately, attendance was relatively poor. Active members present were **President Murray**, **Carol**, **Stan**, **Bill**, **Sade**, **Şola**, **Knud**, **Brenda**, **Emily**, **Cameron** and our three **Joes**—**Maxwell**, **Tabet** and **Zemanovich**. We were also delighted to welcome two members of the Rotary Club of Hudson-and-St-Lazare, who are in the process of transferring their membership to our club: **Gilles Leclerc** and **David Warne**. We were also briefly visited by **Paul Lafleur**, but he was not able to stay.

Emily was our acting Sergeant-at-Arms.

Carol said she had received 27 responses to her questionnaire about the health of our club. She pointed out that each of the 40 statements had a number associated with it, depending on the nature of the statement. Statements with a 1 indicated that they were the least favourable and those with a 4 were the most favourable. For example: "1. No one wants to be club president"; "2. Our club finds it difficult to find a new president"; "3. Not every Rotarian can be a club leader" and "4. I am proud and grateful to have been selected club president". Members were asked to circle the number of all statements that the member considers the most truthful about our club.

She acknowledged that 27 responses represented a very good percentage of our club's membership.

But she said she was very concerned by the number of 2's that had been circled, indicating a "scuttled ship that could be recovered only if we all tried very hard." As examples she quoted, "2. Attendance is low and it's usually the same people at club meetings each week" and "2. The same people do all the work".

However, she was delighted with the many responders who circled statements such as "4. Members use 'we' language" and "4. I am proud and grateful to be a club leader" and "4. We have fun".

Carol expressed her disappointment at the low attendance, considering that members had indicated that they wanted to get involved. This "working meeting," with attendees given the opportunity to participate in one of four areas of interest, should have attracted a much greater number of members, she said.

"The purpose of this meeting is to decide what our budget will be spent on. You decide what kind of goals you want, what kind of projects you want funding for, and that will go back to the Board. The Board will propose to the club membership what each committee has asked for and what their projects are, and when you approve that, the budget will be assigned accordingly.

"There will be another committee—the fundraising committee—and, because we have fewer dollars available from last year's fundraising events, that committee will develop new ways to raise funds."

President **Murray** read the announcements, including our speakers and other programs for July 24th and beyond. He also told us that Program Chair **Sade** has an extensive list of program ideas and he hopes to take the time on July 24th to review that list with the club members present.

He invited **Knud** to present his slide show on the Guatemala project.

Knud reminded us that this is **Vicki Horsfield's** project called *Creating Opportunities for Guatemalans*. He told us that 65% of the population of Guatemala is illiterate and more than 55% live below the poverty line.

The education system is also flawed, he told us, with only about one in ten students reaching high school.

"Vicki Horsfield, a retired educator from Montreal, saw this as a challenge. She decided to go there and do whatever she could to change the situation."

Knud told us that Vicki is working with about 45 students in an after-school setup where those students get additional help, including the opportunity to learn English.

He told us that this slide show describes the present project to help these families get out of the poverty that they're in. They are also exposed to viruses and diseases such as intestinal worms. "In Vicki's experience," he added, "some students have been off for weeks due to illness. Only by learning to cope with their situation will they have a chance to improve their health, which will also allow them to pursue their studies."

His slide show began by thanking our club and the Rotary clubs of Montreal-Westward and Hawkesbury.

It went on to list the three main projects that we plan to undertake in Guatemala:

- Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Disease Prevention

Our first project is to provide to the "Creating Opportunities for Guatemalans" organization:

- 1) water purification urns to 20 households and 6 composting toilets,
- 2) propane stove top burners w/tables to 24 households,
- 3) a school computer printer, a filing cabinet, 2 drawer units, 2 basic desks and a library desk.

Here are a few of Knud's slides, most of which are photos he has received from Vicki's organization.

Water Filters



Stove Top Burners



School Printer and Furniture



We will ask **Kelly** if she can put his complete slide show on our new website: www.rotarymontrealakeshore.com

Murray distributed a list of 27 possible topics for future programs and asked members present to grade them according to what they would most like to see presented at future meetings. He told us the list was compiled by **Sade** from topics that had been suggested by members.

He also told us that RI President Barry Rassin has voiced his concern for issues facing Rotary clubs. "Our public image is still weak. We must address how we bring our mission into the households around the world. Those who know what good Rotary clubs do will want to be part of it and we must find new models for membership that allow all interested in our mission to participate. With Rotary more in the public eye we will attract more individuals who want to be part of and support a membership organization that accomplishes so much good around the world."

Murray went on to say that in future meetings we will discuss how we work on our image, how we build membership.

He also told us he wants to ask our longer-serving members to talk about something that happened in the Rotary world in the past 40-odd years, since they became Rotarians.

Bill had a joke about a 70-year-old woman who, thanks to new fertility technology, gave birth to a bouncing baby boy. A few weeks later some neighbours came by, wanting to see the baby. The new mother kept putting them off, saying "in a little while" repeatedly. Then telling her visitors they can see the baby "when he cries." "For goodness sake," they said, "why do we have to wait till he cries?"

"Because I've forgotten where I put him," she replied.