



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...

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries next 2 weeks ...

- Happy Anniversary, Knud and Ruth, today, August 28th!*
- Happy Anniversary, Brad & Jen. Sunday, September 2nd!*
- Happy 93rd Birthday, Joe Maxwell..... Tuesday, Sept. 4th!*
- Happy Birthday, Omer SudekanFriday, Sept. 7th!*
- Happy Birthday, George BradleySunday, Sept. 9th!*
- Happy Birthday. Magda Habib.....Monday, Sept. 10th!*

Future Programs...

September is *New Generations Month*

- Sep 4: **NO MEETING** [Tuesday after Labour Day]
- Sep 11: [Evening meeting, starts 7 pm] **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.
- Sep 25: **Working Meeting**. More info to follow from President Murray

Special Events...

- 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...

Maricarmen Raudales, Programs Director, *Health Partners International of Canada*, gave us a literal viewing of the use of high technology in the health care field, using Virtual Reality headsets and headphones to view a pre-recorded session taken as a Canadian team took humanitarian medical kits on their mission to Haiti.

Members present were **Wayne, Stan, PDG Bill, President Murray, Glorefe, Anne, Sola, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Cameron, Joe Tabet, Joe Zemanovich** and **Joe Maxwell**. We were also delighted to welcome Glorefe's daughter **Anastasia**.

Both **Murray** and **Brenda** thanked everyone for their quick and overwhelming response to our request for radios for the palliative care ward of Ste-Anne's Hospital. We were looking for 30 and we received member funding for 46!

Brenda said she's off to Ottawa Thursday



to pick up 100 Dictionaries-4-Life. "We will be delivering them to two or three elementary schools in early September.

"Meals-on-Wheels desperately needs volunteers in Lachine. They need a cook on Thursdays between 8:30 and 11. They also need drivers to deliver meals between 10:30 and 1 pm on Tuesday or Thursday."

If you can help, Brenda can give you contact information.

Joe Maxwell told us that Wednesday will be his last day at Lakeshore Hospital to sell Duck Race tickets; then he will be on vacation. "So, get your tickets now; they're only \$10."

[Joe also asked me to announce that he sold **\$5,000 worth of Duck Race tickets** this year. Well done, Joe! *Ed*]

Brenda spoke up to tell us, "LGH Foundation will no longer be doing gift wrapping at Fairview, because Fairview Cadillac wants to have a uniform service at all their shopping centres across Canada. We have been helping LGHF on two occasions every year and so we hope that whatever they decide to do instead we will be able to help."

Murray said, "Thanks to the generosity of two of our members, **Steve Moors** and **Knud**, we have received the Bronze Hero Award from ShelterBox Canada, which recognizes outstanding dedication and support.

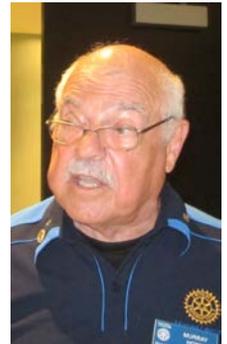
"At our last Board meeting we focused on budget. We will pass that information along to our members and talk about that at a future club meeting, to decide how the money will be spent.

"Lastly, thanks to **Sade**, we have distributed a calendar of future programs. Please put it on your fridge as a reminder of what's happening."

Murray had a last announcement. "The Montreal Westward club will hold an interclub meeting on September 7th at 6:30 at the Montreal West Town Hall, 50 Westminster South. It will be a buffet dinner, \$30 a person, and a cash bar. The last interclub meeting was held downtown and was a good opportunity to meet other Rotarians, learn what they're doing and to tell them some of the great things going on in our club. Check your emails from me for contact information."

Joe Tabet introduced our guest speaker. "**Maricarmen** is Program Director at Health Partners International of Canada. When she joined HPIC in 2015, she brought with her ten years of experience, working in international and community organizations. She had worked for two UN peacekeeping missions and was Program Director for two international NGOs. Her work took her to Thailand, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Guatemala, El Salvador, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria.

"She has a BA from McGill an MA in International Relations and a Master's in Public Administration from Syracuse University. Originally from Honduras, she moved to Canada 22 years ago."



Maricarmen reminded us that this is not her first time at our club as a guest speaker. "So, I thought today we would do something completely different."



She passed around several Virtual Reality headsets and headphones, which everyone present had an opportunity to don and use at some point during the meeting

"As I see a few new faces, let me tell you that Health Partners International of Canada is a relief and development organization. Our mission is to increase access to health and to medicine in vulnerable communities around the world. We work with pharmaceutical companies, about 70 of them in all of Canada. They make donations of medicines that we put in the hands of medical teams like the one that you are seeing in the VR headsets.

"We work with partners across Canada and we give them large amounts of medicines for their projects in over 110 countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. We also have our own projects that are focused on maternal health in several countries in Africa-Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe, in particular.

"We have an emergency situation in India, where there was severe flooding recently. A pharma company asked us, 'How can we help?' With the help of Rotary clubs here and in India we can determine what kind of illnesses are being caused by the flooding and how we can find a home for the medicines we send to the affected area, at the south end of India's west coast. A Rotarian in that part of India is trying to find a hospital or healthcare centre suitably located to help us help the people there. Stagnant water carries a lot of waterborne diseases.

"We also do pharmaceutical management. When you give large volumes of medicines to a hospital or clinic, you want to know that they will be used properly, that it's not going to be stored in heat, or in a place where it can get accessed by vermin. You want to make sure that they keep track of usage and users and that they get maximum extended life of the medicines we send them."



She explained that she was showing us an updated PowerPoint slide show while the Virtual Reality Headsets were being passed around the room. "I wanted to be sure that you all had an opportunity to watch that VR video.

"The VR video is a gift to us from a foundation, when we told them we are a small NGO here in Dollard-des-Ormeaux and we're not very well known. We told them that we provide medicines in support of others. We help others around the world do their jobs better with more and better life-saving medicines.

"You can't take someone to see that in person. The sites are miles and miles away. How can we get people to understand how these medicines are helping people and saving lives around the world?

"So that's when the idea of a Virtual Reality video came to mind, to take people on this journey of hope with us.

"We want to be able to tell them so that they can almost feel what it's like to be there, almost go with that team and

see where they're taking that medicine and how people are being helped.

"We have shown this VR program to some pharmaceutical partners and their employees, so that they can be encouraged to give more when they see how people are benefitting from their generosity. But this Rotary club is one of the first group of people we're showing it to, in terms of organizations we work with and partner with. We are so grateful to that foundation that made these VR presentations possible."

She asked if this is the first time that we have seen a Virtual Reality presentation, and the majority of us acknowledged that it was.

"It will soon become a little more common as a way to present information as a 3D, 360-degree video that puts the viewer in the centre of the action being presented.

"We are delighted to be on the cutting edge and able to put this kind of technology in the hands of our supporters, our donors, to go on that journey of hope without having to pack your bags.

"Now I'd like to get some feedback. What did you learn from this? What did you understand?"

Stan said, "It's just like being there in the room where the meds are being given out."

Joe Zemanovich said he had heard about this VR idea, "but only what they showed us on TV. There was no comparison! It simply isn't possible to get a 3D experience from a 2D screen."

Maricarmen said, "This particular video is of a doctor who takes medicines to Haiti year after year. He has been doing this for over 15 years. He's on our Board, Dr. Pierre Plourde. He was able to bring this special VR camera crew with him, to follow his team around. So, this is a very Haiti-focused video. It's not about an emergency; it's more about the regular work that doctors go to do, somewhere in the world, every year.

"Young doctors and nurses get the experience of using their skills to heal people in a remote part of the world where they don't have the nice things we have in Canada. They have to learn to improvise. That's part of the value of these missions. When they have that medicine in their hands they make a diagnosis, give a treatment.

"I also wanted to come here to say thank you. During the past year, with your support, we have sent two of those kits to Vicki Horsfield in Guatemala, whom you know very well. She has been very involved with other medical teams that are doing great work following the earthquake there in June. She met someone who needs our support, so if you know anybody who is going to Guatemala let me know because we want to send another kit to this particular doctor who is working with people who are digging through the ashes and are getting skin and eye infections as a result."

Knud told Maricarmen, "I have the pleasure of thanking you for this wonderful presentation.

Murray added his thanks and said, "HPIC will be getting a donation from our club as soon as we get our budget sorted out." He also gave her a thank-you note that read, 'Hands that serve and hearts that care.' "It aptly describes HPIC, you and Joe."

