



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...

As our January 24th Board meeting had to be cancelled because of icy roads, sidewalks and parking lots, we will not have a Club Assembly today.

Instead, **Lawrence** and **Cameron** will present a quiz on Canada. How well do you know this country of ours?

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Happy Birthday, Sola Today, January 29th!

Happy Birthday, Lawrence Friday, February 1st!

Future Programs...

February is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month.

Feb 5: T.B.D.

Feb 12: T.B.D.

Feb 19: T.B.D.

Special Events...

Last meeting...

[We are once again grateful to **Stan** for notes and photos he provided in my unavoidable absence *Ed.*]

Members present: **Wayne, Lawrence, Maureen, Stan, Anne, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Cameron, David** and **Joe Maxell.**

We were also pleased to welcome **Anthony Young**, whose application for membership in our club has been approved. He will be inducted at a special meeting February 26th, when we will celebrate our club's 58th anniversary.

Brenda read a very nice letter from the Dorval Community Centre, thanking us for the 12 Christmas baskets we donated. She also shared a Thank-you letter from ShelterBox Canada.

Emily asked Brenda if we have received any feedback from the school that we gave our Dictionaries4Life to. Brenda said she would follow up on that.

David told us he had been in Guatemala the previous week and said he could confirm that they definitely need help. "There is a lot of poverty. One of the things I did while I was there was to follow a nature trail. At the top of this trail, which was hard to find, there was a Rotary toilet."

Lawrence spoke briefly about the various types of bullying that threaten to disrupt our society.



He reminded us of recent news stories about Workplace Harassment in the RCMP and those cowards who used social media to generate cyberbullying remarks about Canada's Junior Hockey Team after they were eliminated by Finland.

He said, "Bullying is a crisis in our society today. Even child abuse is a form of bullying, admittedly a very serious one.

"Bullying is a big problem, estimated to cost Canadians up to 4 billion dollars a year in terms of its economic impact. Child abuse has a very hefty price tag associated with it. One in three Canadians has experienced some form of child abuse, and the cost associated with it is estimated at \$23 billion annually.

"So, my questions to you: How do we recognize bullying and what do we do about it?"

Emily asked, "Is physical bullying being addressed in our schools on an individual basis? That is, are we just looking at someone who is being picked on? We should get the parents involved, those of both the student being bullied and the one who is going the bullying. We need to find out why this is happening and try to resolve it. Very often we learn that the bully is being bullied at home.

Lawrence asked, "Is the punishment for bullying severe enough? Is expelling the bully the right thing to do? And is that sufficient punishment for what he or she did?"

Maureen suggested that perhaps the bully doesn't need punishing. He or she more likely needs help.

Stan said when he was young, bullying was relatively common. "But sending kids to summer camp helps them a lot, whether they are the bully or the bullied. In those times, kids worked things out themselves. Teachers and parents didn't get involved."

Cameron remarked that "in the animal kingdom, most species have a pecking order. In our society today, we may be seeing kids just trying to get a higher place in the order of things and we may mistakenly refer to that as bullying.

"In most herd of cows or pack of wolves there is one chief of that herd or pack and that is the one we have to deal with in order for anything to be brought about in that herd or pack."

There was a great deal of give and take among the members of the audience. Some said that it's better to have the bully's peers deal with him or her, rather than getting teachers or parents involved. Others pointed out that bullying even occurs in some homes, between an aggressive partner and a timid one.

In terms of punishment, it was agreed that the degree to which the bullying creates physical or emotional harm to the person being bullied should determine what should be done about it, even help us decide if we need to get police involved.

Lawrence thanked everyone for their active participation and turned the meeting back over to the chairman, **Cameron**, who suggested we close the meeting and sing O Canada.