



The Lakeshore



ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE
(Chartered February 27, 1961)

Tuesday, February 15th, 2011

CLUB OFFICERS 2010-2011

President: Steve Moors
VP & President-elect: Maureen Cantrill
Secretary (Acting): Steve Moors
Treasurer: Brahm Gallay

DIRECTORS, 2010-2011

Club Service: Wayne Belvedere
Vocational Service: Andy Csisztu
Community Service: Maureen Cantrill
International Service: Lawrence Cantrill
Service to Youth: Joe Zemanovich
(except Interact/Rotaract: Fran Hepworth)

This week's program...



Nathalie Roy, Director of **Camp Massawippi** located on beautiful Lake Massawippi (pictured above) near Ayer's Cliff in the Eastern Townships, will tell us about her summer camp offered by MAB-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre for persons aged 6 to 30 living with a motor, hearing or visual impairment.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

Happy anniversary, Steve & Margaret .. today, February 15th!
Happy birthday, Mary Saad Friday, February 18th!

Future Programs...

Feb 22: **President Steve** has reserved this date for a special meeting to honour **PDG Coos** before he returns to the Netherlands.

Mar 1: Native Issues. **Cameron**

Mar 8: **Samar** will give her *Classification Talk*.

Special Events...

Feb 23: (Wednesday) Our annual visit to the *Old Brewery Mission*, organized by Community Service Chair (and Vice-President/President-elect **Maureen**).

Mar 11: (Friday) **Graham** is in charge of organizing our club's role in the *Blood Donor Clinic* at the Kirkland Arena.

Mar 12: (Saturday) Our annual *Hungarian Night*, organized by Magyar chef **Andy**.

Last week's meeting...

Only sixteen members and one guest were on hand to hear **Eric Lasota** talk about his service trip to the Dominican Republic. Present were **Samar, Lawrence, Maureen, Andy, PDG Coos, Stan, Bob, PDG Bill, Manon, President Steve, Anne, Jennifer, Knud, Art, Magued** and **Joe Z**. We were also pleased to welcome **Laurie Fearon**, guest of the club.

Among the announcements...

- President **Steve** read two thank-you letters, one from the West Island Palliative Care Residence, for our recent donation in memory of **PDG Louis Joron**, the other from **Nancy McIntyre**, for our donation to the Rose of Hope Foundation in memory of her father, **PDG Jack McIntyre**. Both Louis and Jack were former members of our club.
- **Maureen** reminded us of our upcoming visit to the *Old Brewery Mission* on Wednesday, February 23rd. She also told us she has scheduled a **second visit** to the OBM, on Thursday, May 19th. That one she has named "Bob's Day" to acknowledge the gift from **Bob Habib** that will make that second visit possible.
- **Manon** announced that our newest club, **Laval Rive-Nord** has organized a special \St Valentine's Day Supper on Monday, February 14th at a farm located at 2595 rang du Haut-St-François, Laval.
- Manon also told us that RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) would take place this year in Gatineau on May 22nd and 23rd. But," she added, "RYLA 2012 is in question at this time."
- **Lawrence** told us they need more items to be auctioned at both the live and silent auctions in June.
- President **Steve** announced that our Youth Exchange student, **Sophie Lefrançois**, would be going to Sweden.

Our guest speaker was introduced by **Art. Eric Lasota** is a retired Phys Ed teacher from Lower Canada College. As a teacher he was very active in promoting community service among students. Since retiring in 2008 he has been to France and Spain and has walked over 2400 km on the Chemin de Compostelle, the famous pilgrim walking routes from the tomb of SaintJames in NW Spain to several destinations in France.

Eric is active in his parish of St. Veronica's in Dorval. He has been on service trips to Liberia, Guyana and the Dominican Republic and last Tuesday he told us about his trip to the DR.

He thanked **Knud** for inviting him to speak to us. He spoke about **Judy Warrington**, from the Rotary Club of Oakville (Ontario). As part of its Opportunities for Service Committee, her district, D7080, coordinates a variety of Hands-on Humanitarian Missions in West Africa, India, Mexico, the Caribbean and South America.

Judy, who is a 3-time Paul Harris Fellow and Woman-of-the-Year award winner, has made 22 visits to the Dominican Republic, where she works with local Rotarians to conduct adult skills training workshops in DR communities around Puerto Plata and Santiago, DR. She has been made an honorary citizen of the city of Moca in northern DR. She founded *Power Trips*, an organization that takes young people to the Dominican Republic to improve lives, including their own. *Power Trips'* motto is "Go. See. Do." The July 2009 issue of *Rotary Canada* magazine carried an article describing a service trip by 90 high school students and teachers from across Canada to repair four schools in a rural area outside of Moca. Each student also contributes \$500 toward the purchase of materials needed for the school renovations. Architect Luis Bolivar donated his services to design the new school.



Eric told us that 4% of the DR government budget was allocated for schools but only about half of that actually gets used for that purpose. However, there is a program that will

provide the funds to pay a teacher if outside resources can be found to build a new classroom.

Eric told us about his experience in the DR. As an example of the poverty he saw there, he told us that school uniforms are often the best clothes that children own.

The medical conditions are deplorable, he observed. He saw a man who had slashed his hand with a machete. The hand was in the late stages of gangrene and the man was either going to lose his hand, his arm or his life.

Homes get electricity by tapping into overhead power lines

He was very impressed with the students, who did hands-on hard work, such as a bucket brigade of gravel to make cement for the concrete roof of a new school. Eric told us he has since approached his MP for help to pay for that roof.

Everything in the DR is musically oriented. Visits from "foreigners" is an excuse to have a special party, with music and dancing

He had put together a slide show but we were unable to connect his MacBook to our projector.

"Why did I go down there?" he asked. "To rub shoulders with Judy, to attend a Rotary meeting, to get involved in the hands-on humanitarian service she provides."

His biggest regret? "That I had no Spanish. This year I have bought Rosetta Stone® Spanish for Latin America. It's the best way to learn a new language."

He thanked our club, and especially **Knud**, for our financial assistance, and told us he plans to return to the Dominican Republic for 6 weeks at the end of this month. He will spend two weeks with each of three groups of students, from Montreal, Toronto and Western Canada.



Eric was thanked by **Bob** for enlightening us about a poverty-stricken country where Rotary and non-Rotarians, working together, are making a difference.