



Club #85, founded Oct 2, 1913

August 24, 2010

**Attendance:** Herman Alves; John Bishop; Bertrand de Cardaillac; Andy Dang-Duy; Jacques Dénomée; Carlo Pugliese; Steve Sadler; George Shalhoub; Nemo Turner; Drew Webster. Prospective member: Mikkel Elsborg. Guest Speaker: Manon Lafleur, Phd, Honorary Member of our club.

**President Nemo** opened the meeting and greeted **Mikkel Elsborg**.

**Past President Herman Alves** spoke about a contact with the Eastbourne Rotary Club that came about through our club's home hospitality night at the recent International Convention. He met John and Elizabeth Wilton and when they learned that he was fan of The Beatles, they sent him a photo montage they had put together that recalls the cover of the Sargent Pepper Album.



**Carlo Pugliese** said our club was to be toasted on Wednesday, September 15 by the members of the Rotary Club of Stretford & Urmston, District 1050, in a gesture of friendship for our continued well-being and prosperity. (**The Ed** suggests a reciprocal gesture the following Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, when the District Governor will be making her official visit to our club.)

**Carlo** introduced our guest speaker, **Manon Lafleur, Phd**, honorary member of our club for ten years. Her project in Varanasi, India was initially funded by our club's Social Services Program in 1994-95 and by the Rotary Foundation. Then in 1997 it was recognized by the prestigious Velan Award and three years later by the CIDA Leadership Award. In 2006 it garnered the Sankat Mochan Award.

Early in her talk, **Manon Lafleur** made a statement that caught the attention of your reporter. She was talking about the years she was completing her Phd. She had been in London and then India. "What's the use of a Phd", she asked herself, "when the people don't know how to read and write". This realization must lie at the heart of her subsequent work with its "hands-on" approach. At the end of her remarks she painted a picture of Phd's out of touch

with reality, wrapped up in their own well-being. She spoke of a professor who used a driver except when she got to the gates of the university, at which point she would put herself behind the wheel of the car and drive up to her office on the campus.

This year we have our own place. It is very simple but a large garden provides a place for children to play. We have two male teachers, young men with families. There are 40 children in the school. I am conscious of the importance of keeping it small so we have the resources to continue. A measure of success is the number of girls who are enabled to go to government schools.



Manon spoke of 13 to 14 year old girls getting shoes for the first time in their lives, the expression on their faces, the realization that the future promised hope.

**Andy Dang-Duy** expressed thanks to the speaker.

**George Shalhoub** presented **Manon Lafleur** with a certificate of her honorary membership in our club. It marks a decade since her election to this well-deserved status.



Official visit of District Governor will occur on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Make plans to attend.

Next meeting: **Aug 31<sup>st</sup> at 7.30 am**  
Location: **The St. James Club**  
Speaker: **TBA**

For directions to The Saint James Club, go to: [www.stjamesclub.ca](http://www.stjamesclub.ca)

For back-issues of The Rotary Record, go to: [www.rotarymontreal.org](http://www.rotarymontreal.org)