



Club #85, founded Oct 2, 1913

Feb 2, 2010

**Attendance:** Jean-Marc Allard, Herman Alves, John Bishop, Bertrand de Cardaillac, Stéphane Lebrat, Serge Malaisson, Carlo Pugliese, Steve Sadler, George Shalhoub, Udo Stundner, Nemo Turner, Bob Velan, Drew Webster. McGill Rotaract: Nicolette Neumann. Guest speaker: Professor Margaret Somerville. Guest: Mohammed Nosa.

**President Nemo** called the meeting to order with a welcome to Nicolette Neumann and Mohammed Nosa. Nicolette is President of the McGill Rotaract club and Mohammed is a prospective member of our Rotary club.

**Carlo Pugliese** invited Rotarians to join him in organizing this year's fund-raising golf tournament. He then produced an ethical joke in honour of our guest speaker.

"Once upon a time there was an elderly gentleman who was very hard of hearing. His doctor prescribed a hearing aid. When he went back for a checkup, the doctor asked how it was working. "Very well indeed" he said. "And what about your family, how do they like it"? "Oh I've not told them but I've changed my will three times".

**Professor Margaret Somerville** "is known as an international leader in the discussion of complex ethical questions surrounding both the legal and ethical aspects of medicine". She was introduced by **Udo Stundner**. She is the founding director of the Center for Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University. She holds the Samuel Gale Chair in the Faculty of Law and is also a professor in the Faculty of Medicine. She is a widely-published author.



In her remarks, Professor Somerville subjected the Rotary Four-Way Test to the laws of good ethics. Ethics step in when we have to choose between conflicting values. Good facts are essential for good ethics. What the are the values

relevant to the facts. It is important to prioritize. Finally, it is important to justify decisions ethically, trying not to do the wrong thing, trying to do good, and when there is conflict, deciding which values should be honored and which not. She talked of a societal-cultural paradigm and

the truth about human nature. She spoke about a post-human future and immortality, the developed and developing worlds, the genetically rich vs the genetically poor. **Drew Webster** presented Professor Somerville with a certificate of appreciation and this was ably reinforced by an expression of thanks by **President Nemo**.

**News from previous meetings:**



Jan 26: **Udo Stundner** was presented with a Medal of Merit certificate. By Drew Webster.



Jan 26: **President Nemo** holds the "Friend of Rotary" Award presented in absentia to **Allan Ailo**, resident of British Columbia.

**Next Meeting:**  
Feb 9 at 07.30: Club Assembly