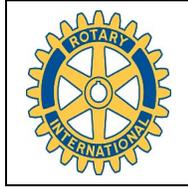


Rotary Club of Carleton Place & Mississippi Mills



Bulletin: 13 Oct. 2005

MEETING OF 11 OCTOBER

The twelve Rotarians present were treated to a fascinating talk on “big box” stores by **Derrick Hicks**, the owner of the Carleton Place Canadian Tire store. Derrick’s comments supported the current merchandising philosophy of “Go big or go home”. While there will still be a role for “mom and pop” stores, we certainly have not seen the end of stand-alone, big box stores which offer the owners greater flexibility than locations within shopping centres. He presented interesting information on the remarkable growth of companies such as Home Depot (1900 stores), Rona (563 stores under various banners), Lowes (planning to expand into Canada), Shoppers Drug Mart (Canada’s only true big box pharmacy with 930 stores) and Canadian Tire (457 stores in Canada, growing to 480 by 2010 and with a 20/20 concept that will see expanded stores in Perth and Smiths Falls in 2006 and Carleton Place and Ottawa in 2007). Derrick noted that international competition meant lower net margins and new products requiring greater storage and shelf space.

During the business portion of the meeting a report on the official opening of the trail was presented and **Gordon** noted that we may be able to retain the first Rotary plaque (the one with a minor

fault) for a price of \$250. He was authorized to prepare a municipal grant application to Mississippi Mills for \$1,000 for trail maintenance expenses next year. There were also reports on the presentation of the bursaries at the high schools the previous Friday including the suggestion that a more formal procedure be followed next year with regard to advising the presenters as to the date and time of the graduation ceremonies.

David Kirkpatrick was applauded for the excellent job he is doing acquiring excellent speakers for our meetings.

OTHER CLUB NEWS/ACTIVITIES:

- The Executive Committee will meet following the regular meeting on October 18. All members are welcomed to participate.
- Club membership is now down again to 16 following the resignation of Sean Murphy and Brad Kinnaird.
- Given that the local press did not attend the official opening of the trail, nor even write an article based upon the press release given to them, **Brenda, Fraser and Gordon** have decided to pull the last ad from the Canadian and the Gazette and include it only in the upcoming edition of The Weekender.
- District Governor **Greg Campbell’s** visit with us is now scheduled for our Tuesday, November 15 meeting.