

Rotary Club of Carleton Place & Mississippi Mills



Bulletin February 15, 2006.

Last meeting: A “*Night with the Nutters*” could be a sitcom title for the delightful evening of wit, wisdom, and just plain fun as eight members and two guests listened, laughed, and even loved, our way through our *Valentine’s Day* meeting.

The major actors in the evening’s activities were our *Program Presenter, Fiona Brown*, aided and abetted by a special guest, *Debbie Turner*, and amply egged-on by *Rotarians Fraser, Brian, and Bob*. In truth, though, the rest of the entourage present all got their licks in as we guffawed our way through one wave of repartee after another.

Once fed, and somewhat fatigued by the good time, we finally settled down to view an excellent video and slide presentation by *Fiona* on the contribution being made to the lives of physically challenged children of our communities by *Camp Merrywood*, a facility provided by the *Easter Seals Organization*. Here is where the “loving” part of the evening came in – as we were treated to several very compelling and touching stories of life-changing experiences of children with cerebral palsy, spina-bifida, and muscular dystrophy, that *Camp Merrywood* has catalyzed.

Fiona is the Campaign Director for the *Easter Seals* initiative to raise \$3,800,000.00 to upgrade old facilities and provide a host of new ones at *Camp Merrywood*. Rotary has been involved in a major way with *Easter Seals Camp* initiatives for many years – starting with providing services for Polio victims in the pre-vaccine days.

On other topics, guest *Debbie Turner*, representing the Navy League and Sea Cadets, re-confirmed her Organization’s commitment to partner with our Club in doing the bull-work involved in this year’s *compost sales* fund raiser. Having the young backs to help with shovelling the ... should be a big help. And a yard to store and bag from will alleviate the pressure on a certain Appleton family – whom we greatly appreciate having provided both space, time, and organization in the past two years of this annual, valuable Club activity.

In order to move the Club technologically into the 21st Century, without it costing us too much money, it was agreed that we purchase a *domain name for a Web Site*, and that *Fraser* look further into contracting with a local Web Site provider who is just getting started in the field and will cut us a good deal.

President Brenda informed us of an email from an expert in the area of *play-ground equipment* that is *all-abilities accessible*. She will look further into this topic as we continue to consider a *Rotary Park* project for the Morphy Street lot, in Carleton Place.

Next Week: Club business meeting, followed by an Executive Meeting which Committee chairs should attend.