

Rotary Club of Carleton Place & Mississippi Mills



Bulletin: 14 April 2006

MEETING OF 11 APRIL

There were only 8 members present for the meeting but fortunately our numbers were augmented by Barbara Taylor of Almonte, Lorna MacNabb and honorary member Brian Costello in addition to our speaker Ian McKelvie who is Senior Marketing Manager for the Canadian Geographic. In Brenda's temporary absence **Bernie** chaired the first part of the meeting. **Gordon** reported that a \$500 cheque for the trail had been received from Mississippi Mills; that we had to identify a proxy delegate to vote at the Rotary International Convention in Copenhagen and that the Charter Night for the new North Renfrew Club is on May 13 in Deep River. Gordon will ask Sean Murphy if he would consider building another donations box as a gift for that Club. Gordon also distributed compost telephone call sheets to those present and saved a few to give to absent members. (Please call Gordon if you wish to participate in calling last year's customers.) He also announced that our involvement in the BIA Clean-up Day will take the form of a **Rotary Trail clean-up starting at 9am Saturday April 22. Volunteers should meet at the end of William Street (behind Art's service station). Garbage bags and gloves will be provided but some**

rakes and a shovel or two will come in handy. Let's everybody pitch in!

Bernie reported that a booklet on how to register as a charity had been received and that **Bob** had agreed to chair a small committee to look into what action should be taken. Bob also took great pleasure in announcing that the past 5 bingo nights had netted the Club \$4,900. Our hats go off to Marion and her small crew. **Bernie** also distributed a volunteers' signature sheet for Club members who are going to participate in the "**Adopt a Highway**" program. A number of members signed the sheet and hopefully those not at the meeting will also agree to participate. The section of highway selected for adoption is the 2 km (exactly) section of Highway 29 running from the end of the McNeely Bridge to the intersection with Wilson Street which leads into Appleton.

Ian McKelvie spoke on behalf of FAIR VOTE CANADA and gave a very thought-provoking presentation on how our electoral system could be changed so that every vote would count in some manner. As evidence for the need to reform our current "first past the post" system he noted that the Green Party got 665,000 votes in the last election but not one seat in the Commons; the 400,000 Conservative votes in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver didn't produce one seat in those areas yet 475,000 votes for the Liberals in Atlantic Canada produced 20 seats. The proportional representation system espoused by Ian gave rise to an interesting exchange of views around the table, but the complexity of the proposed system and the probability of repeated coalition governments seemed to leave Club members unconvinced.

Note: The Executive meets next week