

## *Club of Carleton Place & Mississippi Mills*



**Bulletin: January 25, 2007**

### **MEETING OF JANUARY 23**

**President Brenda** opened the meeting with the sad news that one of our faithful bingo paid workers, Judith Richmire, had been killed in an automobile accident and her husband seriously injured. A card will be sent to their family. Turning to more pleasant matters she introduced three guests, Allison Kirkpatrick, Susan Edwards and John Litva. We have hopes that the latter two (or for that matter all three!) will be rejoining us as members in the future.

There was no pressing business to be dealt with so **David M.** introduced our two guest speakers, **Chris and Bill Hale** from the Perth Rotary Club who came to update us on the Guatemalan project which has gone well beyond the initial stove project. Bill explained that the stove project has extended into a five-phase "Three Villages" initiative, the phases being: 1) the stove project itself, 2) health initiatives, 3) income potential, 4) education and 5) helping others. About 1000 stoves a year are now being built so the Perth Club is now focussing on phases 2 to 4. Chris commented that the three-village initiative started with \$1,200 and now over \$7,500 has been invested by local Rotary Clubs. The **health initiatives** focus on clinics by Canadian doctors who prescribe and provide medication, and the provision of

medication to local doctors. A recent donation of \$500 US by the Smith's Falls Club was enough to purchase drugs from a participating pharmaceutical company that would have been worth \$5,000 wholesale or \$14,000 to \$16,000 at the retail level.

The program to increase the **income potential** of the villages included the purchase of seeds as well as looms and loom materials. Pictures were shown of the extremely colourful fabrics produced by the village women. Another successful example was the construction of a large hen house for one of the villages that will soon permit the village to be self sufficient with regard to eggs and meat. The **education** initiative was critical because Hurricane Stan had washed schools away and while the government had been shamed into replacing two of them they were left as empty shells. The Villages program is supplying chairs, desks and other needs.

Following the presentation, and in recognition that the only funds accepted in Guatemala are US dollars, **Bernie** moved that our \$1,000 donation be in US funds and that motion was passed. These actual funds will be carried to the projects by volunteers and will be used to build a hen house at the village of Estancia. A digital camera will be taken so we will be provided with pictures of the project. Volunteers go to the villages every February for two weeks and Rotarians interested should contact either Chris or Bill. It was an excellent presentation by the Hales and should prompt even greater contributions to the "Guatemalan Box"

### **CLUB ACTIVITIES:**

- Regular meeting on January 30.