

Rotary Club of Carleton Place & Mississippi Mills



Meeting of August 21st, 2007

President Fraser chaired the meeting, and welcomed guests Allison Kirkpatrick, Glenda Jones, Katelyn Turner, Harold Mackay (Kanata Rotary) and the speaker Jim Faul (Eyesight International).

The club approved Mike's recommendation that he purchase a small supply of lapel pins, including officer pins. He reported that he had contacted a firm that makes banners, but they require a minimum order of 50, and they have not yet quoted a price. The club also approved the submission of the Final Report on the CLA Deck, which had been circulated by email. The check for \$1,000 has been received.

Fraser thanked Susan and John Edwards for the use of their property for last week's meeting. He also thanked George for his work on the 50.50 draw, and those members who sold tickets.

David McGlade proposed that the club purchase a locker to keep club equipment together in the hotel lobby. The club approved the idea. Harold suggested the club buy the materials, and give the work to a local carpenter.

Bernie talked briefly about the student exchange, as an introduction to a more detailed meeting for potential hosts at the end of the meeting.

There are various membership seminars, including one in Brockville on September 6th. Club members are encouraged to attend.

Jim Faul then gave a very interesting presentation about Operation Eyesight. He

is a Vice-President of the organization and a Rotary member. About 37 million people are completely blind, and another 125 million have severely defective sight. Perhaps 200 million have severe refractive defects that could be corrected if they could afford glasses. Lack of sight has a more serious impact on a person's quality of life in developing countries, and is worse still for women. 75% of cases are treatable.

Operation Eyesight operates mainly in India, Africa and Bangladesh. They focus on full participation with the local medical staff and population, on the principle of making recipient medical facilities self-sustaining. In some hospitals, at least half the patients are treated without charge, and the same surgeons operate on paying and non-paying patients. Building a good reputation is essential.

In Africa, prevention of trachoma is important, and has to be done by providing clean water and good hygiene facilities. Their acronym is SAFW: Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleansing and Wells.

Recently, they have been able to convince the World Health Organization of the importance of blindness as a problem that affects many peoples' lives.

Agenda for next meeting

- A member of the club will give a talk on the joys of married life...

Club Activities

- September 11th – CLA opening ceremony and pizza party. Regular charge of \$15 to help pay for clients.