

## ***Rotary Club of Carleton Place & Mississippi Mills***



### **Meeting of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Fraser chaired this evening's meeting, which was dedicated to a talk by Ray Elgarsma, and to which spouses were invited. Bernice Butler was introduced by Bob, and welcomed by the club. Fraser also noted some correspondence from the District, encouraging the search for new members, and announcing Ambassadorial Scholarships.

Voting on the budget and Donations Committee rules were again postponed until next week, when it is hoped that more members will be present.

The last Bingo made a total profit of \$24, allowing for an accounting error in our favour for once.

Mike circulated three designs for the banner, and the one with the white background was approved unanimously. Copies are attached.

Bernie announced that a student exchange will take place. There will be more information in two weeks.

Debbie will forward an electronic copy of the budget to Mike, who will circulate it to all club members.

George the introduced Ray Elgarsma, who is a retired municipal officer who owns a woodlot near Flower Junction, in the Lanark Highlands. Ray talked for about twenty minutes, and told a number of tales about life in the area. There are still houses with dirt floors, and houses that have been built around old vehicles. Areas of poverty are being displaced by wealthier people moving into the area, especially people who were brought up in the area and who 'made it big'

in the cities. Ray cuts wood for a living now, and there are still sawmills and forest-related activities in the area. Alcohol abuse is common, as in many rural areas. (It happens in the cities as well...)

The sad recent case of a 91-year-old woman who died in a house fire took place in this area, as did the case of teenagers who were trapped by poisoned alcohol. "Bush justice" occurs sometimes when the legal system is not seen to be effective.

Ray mentioned a Mrs. Crosbie, who had 18 children, and is largely responsible for the prevalence of this surname in the area. One house is owned by a Texan; it provides five full-time jobs in the area for its upkeep, and the land surrounding it is immaculate.

### **Agenda for next meeting**

- Votes on the budget and the Donations Committee

### **Club Activities**

- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Bowling Night.