

Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills



Meeting of August 26th, 2008

Marion chaired the meeting, and welcomed several guests; Maryanne Swiminer and Debbie Beck from Playground Planners, Joe Crampton and Lisa Young from the Town, Grace Bell, a visiting Rotarian from Ottawa-Stittsville, Ayaka Inui from Japan (student staying with Ernie and Brenda), and Ernie Rowe.

It was approved unanimously that Sue Edwards be given a 6-month leave of absence, in the hope that she will be able to return in January. She still expects to continue with the Community Character project. Mike will write to her to confirm this.

Gordon has found serious problems with one part of the Trail, and has arranged for immediate repairs to avoid the risk of accidents to cyclists. The club has already approved funding for such maintenance, and the cost will be about \$400.

Alan asked for orders for bulbs (flower, not light), and circulated an order list. He will deliver them to buyers' homes.

Ray Elgarsma is looking for volunteers to work on a Habitat for Humanity project in Newborough, near Westport. It is hoped that they would be able to commit to two or more full days of work.

Marion reminded members about the District Conference in Cornwall, on October 17th-19th. She hoped that some members would attend. Cost is \$225, or \$495 with accommodation and dinner/dance.

Marion then introduced Maryanne and Debbie, who gave a presentation on the planned playground structure. They have over 30 years experience between them, and did the work for Brewer Park in Ottawa, and for the park in Perth. Safe flooring is one of the most vital components of a childrens'

park, and they recommend CedarWeave, which is safe and durable, and is less expensive than rubber. It is possible for club members to do the installation, under close supervision by company staff. Total cost is about \$60,000, not including site preparation, and a deposit of 25% would be needed before work starts. This will of course necessitate sharing with other service clubs, and intensive fund-raising efforts over two or three years. This is a significant reason for the planned status as a charity.

Members asked questions about resistance to vandalism, and received good answers. They supply cleaning products to remove graffiti, and the equipment is very solid and hard to damage. We also asked about the kinds of problems that had been encountered, and they gave one of two examples. The structures can be left out in the winter.

Agenda for next meeting

- Acquiring charitable status, with advice from a member of the Smiths Falls club. Fraser will present information on legal advice and probable costs.

Club Activities