



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

### **Meeting of November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

The first part of the meeting was held at the Hall of Valour, where Ron Roe talked about the Hall and a number of winners of the Victorian Cross. He noted that nearly four times as many medals were awarded during the Great War as in the Second World War; an indication of how the fighting was more up close and personal and much more dangerous. About one member of the armed forces in ten failed to return home. Many who did return were severely affected for life, and this was not properly understood at the time.

The first Canadian awarded the VC was Alexander Dunn, for his bravery in the ill-conceived Charge of the Light Brigade. The last was Hamilton Gray, for leading an attack against a Japanese destroyer.

Ron told many fascinating stories, and showed his commitment and emotional involvement. Some members were surprised to hear that the Hall is a national facility serving the whole country.

We then reconvened for a regular meeting and supper at the Carleton Heritage. Marion welcomed Brian Costello (honorary member and former Mayor).

John reported that the first batch (126 dozen) roses were to be delivered tomorrow at 7:00 am. Marion agreed to meet the delivery truck, and pay the \$1207 required, to be refunded immediately from club funds. Marion has spoken to the CSS staff, and their clients will assemble the boxes on Wednesday evening.

Members will deliver roses as soon as they can. A second batch of 100 dozen will be ordered next week for sale at Walmart. John was thanked for the work he had done, and he in turn thanked all members for their cooperation in arranging sales.

Marion agreed to see if an alternative date for the Christmas dinner could be arranged, to provide a gap of a few days from the Lanark dinner. If not, it will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and invitations will be restricted to Mills seniors.

Brian Costello then talked about Carleton Place's exceptional contribution to the armed forces during the last century. He noted that he has recently been promoted to Honorary Colonel, a big jump from his former rank as Ordinary Seaman. Two interesting comments: the Great War was ended largely because of the impact of the Spanish Influenza, and the officers had to stop the fraternization between troops at Christmas, for fear that they might not want to start fighting again, and that there would be an unwanted outbreak of peace.

#### **Agenda for next meeting**

- Club Assembly – no guests

#### **Club Activities**

- November 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rose deliveries and sale at Walmart
- Senior's dinner – date under review.