



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of January 27th, 2009

Marion chaired the meeting, and welcomed as guests Erin Lee-Todd and Rivka Waas. We were also pleased to see David Brash after his absence.

Arthur Waas was welcomed and inducted into the club as a new member.

Bernie reported on the charity status. He, John and David signed the papers for incorporation last week, and we expect to hear back in five weeks. We will then apply for status as a registered charity, which will take about six months. At that time we will have elections for up to five directors, and thus need one or two more members to agree to take on this role. Please call Bernie or Marion if you are interested.

Robert circulated a Treasurer's report, and gave a brief explanation. The club still has significant assets, but the total has been reduced somewhat as planned.

George then introduced Erin Lee-Todd, who was our speaker this evening. She is the Executive Director for the Lanark Interval House, which is situated in Carleton Place at a semi-undisclosed location. It caters to women who have been subjected to violence and abuse, and provides a safe shelter for up to about 8 weeks, to enable them to restart their lives. Many suffer considerable financial hardship, and donations help to alleviate their problems. The Hub and the Rebound Centre in Almonte provide a great deal of help. In Carleton Place, the "As Good as New Store"

has provided funding for over twenty-five years.

The Lanark Interval House has recently received a grant of \$1.5 million for rebuilding, but no funding for on-going maintenance, and is thus very dependent to the community. They need to raise \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year. They have 15 beds, and more than 30 staff members. They provide a 24-hour crisis phone line. Many clients have children with them, and these can be accommodated as well. Many clients return to their abusive partners several times before they make the final break.

There are volunteer opportunities at the Centre, but volunteers need to have a police check. There are jobs for both men and women.

The Donations Committee has already approved a donation of \$250, and Marion presented Erin with a cheque at the end of the meeting.

Agenda for next meeting

- The meeting is to be held at the Waterside facility on McNeely, close to the bridge near Townline Road. Start time is 6:00 pm. *SPOUSES ARE WELCOME*. Please let Marion know if you and your spouse will attend, and signify your choice or appetizer (soup or salad) and main course (liver or chicken).

Club Activities

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