



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of March 24th, 2009

With **President Marion** in the Chair, and eleven members present, the Club held its second last meeting in the Heritage Inn venue. Among the business items covered, the Club approved a motion by **Rotarian Gordon** (seconded by **Rotarian David Mc.**) to donate \$500.00 to the Puppets Up Festival, \$500.00 to the Alwood Addictions Treatment Centre, and \$250.00 to the Valley Player's Youth Troupe. \$250.00 was approved tentatively to go to the Naismith Statue project, given our financial position when this project is finalized by the Naismith Foundation.

In **Vice-President Mike's** absence (he and **Louise** are basking, we hope, in the spring sunshine of his native Britain), **Marion** reminded the Club that the dates for this years compost sale are the weekends of May 2nd and 9th – so keep posted for details on just when we will be called into telephone action. We don't want to start doing our marketing until we are sure we have the teen-age muscle-power to man, and woman, the shovels, bags, and trucks to spread the manure around the valley once again in our annual major fund-raiser.

Rotarian David B. (alias "Wee Davie") reminded us of the **Bowling Party** this Saturday evening (tomorrow), March 28th, to be held at the Bowling Alley on Bridge St. in Carleton Place. The balls roll at 6:30, to be followed by a pizza snack around 8:00 to refresh our spent spirits. The cost is \$16.00 a head. This is a **partners' fun night** so do come along if you can and enjoy the flights of fancy (bowling balls that is) and fellowship.

Rotarian Alan J. (that fellow from Ottawa), passed around a glossy promotional magazine from his home town of **Kimberly B.C.** (nestled in the valley between the Rockies and the Purcell Mts.), with the suggestion that our area (straddling the banks of the meandering Mississippi) put out a similar publication. The seed of an idea?

Program:

With an introduction by **Rotarian Bernie**, our program guests, **Kimberly Leach** – Fund Raising Manager for **Easter Seals Ontario**, and **Ian McLachlan** – Regional Chair of Easter Seals Volunteers, gave us a run-down of Easter Seals funded activities. Interestingly, this organization was started by Rotary, back in 1922, as the Ontario Society for Crippled Children – and later morphed into what is now called **Easter Seals Ontario**. With its primary purpose being to ease the often crushing financial burden on the families of children with a variety of debilitating physical handicaps, the Easter Seals organization also provides a range of recreational programs and services for handicapped people, a centerpiece being the annual summer camp at **Camp Merrywood**, on the Rideau Lakes between Perth and Smiths Falls.

The major fund raiser for the **Easter Seals** is an upcoming annual **telethon**, held this year on **Sunday April 5th**. Our club was invited to make a public donation at the telethon, and challenge other Rotary Clubs in the process.

Rotarian David Mc. (still sporting his Dominican Republic tan) thanked our speakers with an illustration of his own personal involvement in Camp Merrywood – not only was he present (as a very young fellow) at the inaugural camp, he has visited it regularly over the years.

Next Meeting:

Presentation by Co-operative Nursery School of Almonte.

Club Activities:

March 28th – Bowling Night.

