



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills Meeting of March 31st, 2009

Our Club held its **final meeting** at the Heritage Inn with a relatively small turn-out of only eight members. **President Marion** chaired the meeting, without our usual Rotary paraphernalia to decorate the walls (thanks to **Rotarian Arthur's** initiative in packing it up and moving it to our new digs for next week's meeting). Among the business items, **Marion** reminded those of us who haven't gotten around to completing our police checks to get-around-to-it. The process calls for us to individually take our forms to the local police station, then pick them up again a week or so later...pretty painless, but necessary in this day-and-age of taking precautions in service contacts related to children and to seniors.

Marion also distributed the meal selections menu for next week. The non-present members will be polled by email prior to the Tuesday meeting.

Rotarian John gave us a brief show-and-tell of a **Carleton Place Monopoly Game** – as a prospective fund-raiser project. While some careful marketing considerations are called for, John's initiative shows great promise for a lucrative funding source for the Club. **Rotarian Fraser** suggested expanding the game to include **Mississippi Mills** open the whole valley as a potential market, as well as reflecting our whole club identity.

Rotarian David Mc. circulated a rare piece of Rotary history for our appreciation, and consideration of what might be done with it in the future. The item is a *very fine* piece of decorative silver dinner-plate...engraved with the names of the charter members of the **Rotary Club of Cairo, Egypt** circa. **1930**. *How about that for a unique, and*

unusual piece of Rotary history!? David has been given the plaque by an acquaintance with the request to find an appropriate long-term Rotary home for it. Just where that might be is an open question...any suggestions?

Program:

The program for our Farewell-to-the-Heritage-Inn meeting was a presentation by **Jodi Dixon**, a director of the **Cooperative Nursery School of Almonte**. Jodi, who is also a parent of two children at the nursery, gave us an moving description of how this facility is providing the pre-school children of Mississippi Mills with a warm, supportive, stimulating environment that fosters their pre-school mental and emotional development. In order to subsidize the program for children whose parent's can't afford the fees involved, the School is looking to service clubs such as Rotary for assistance...a cause well worth our consideration.

Rotarian George thanked Jodi for the presentation and congratulated her and her colleagues for their application of the adage that "it takes a community to raise a child"...something the Nursery School is very much doing.

Upcoming Activities:

Next Tuesday will be our first meeting at the **Waterside Retirement Community**. Our first program will be a presentation by **Jeff Mills**, of Almonte, filling us in on a local community initiative to promote bicycling in Lanark County. Jeff will also give us a run-down on his recent trip to Haiti to help out in a school-building project there.

The go-ahead date to start making phone calls for **compost sales** will be set on Tuesday.

It is almost time to do our semi-annual **Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up** again. Rotarian Fraser needs to know who would be available for April 25th. Please check your calendars and email him with your availability status.