



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of May 5th, 2009

Marion chaired the meeting, and welcomed as guests Linda Flynn of West Ottawa, Ambassadorial Scholar Michele Tarsilla and Assistant District Governor Tom Taylor.

Mike reported on the compost program. We bagged and delivered 1,000 bags last week, and decided by majority vote to order two more loads (50 cu yards) for the coming weekend. This will give us more than enough to fulfill all our orders, and we will sell the surplus to walk-in customers and others. Any left over will be donated somewhere.

Better signs have been ordered, and will be ready for the weekend.

Marion will contact Mary-Lynn at the CPHS, to see if any students would like to earn volunteer hours on Sunday, helping with deliveries.

As much bagging and delivery as possible will be done on Saturday. Gordon recommended that customers be called beforehand where possible. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard on this project.

Linda Flynn then introduced Michele Tarsilla. He talked about his travels and studies during the last ten years, many of them in African countries, then in Washington, now at Carleton University. He was a Fulbright scholar while in the US, and he now holds a Rotary scholarship. He will travel to Michigan for his PhD program in August. He talked about his home town of Arona, near the Milan airport,

and showed a sequence of slides giving the audience a detailed impression of the area. They have the world's second largest bronze statue, over 30 metres tall.

His work has concentrated on helping poor people, in particular on homelessness and micro-credit programs. These have at last been started by Canadian banks in Toronto, where there are many immigrants (and others) who desperately need them. He noted that Ontario is one of only three provinces that does not guarantee micro-credit loans. He said that homelessness was a bigger problem in Canada than in Italy, because traditional family support tends to be stronger there.

Bernie thanked Michele for his interesting talk, and gave him one of the Rotary 4-way test pens as a memento.

Agenda for next meeting

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Club Activities

- Compost bagging and delivery – May 9th until they have all gone! Bagging starts at 9:00 am, and deliveries can start as soon as enough bags have been packed.