



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of May 12th, 2009

Marion welcomed two guests; Grace Bell from the Stittsville-Ottawa club, and Tom Affleck from SchoolBox.

Our RYLA student is ill, and may not be able to attend on Friday. If not, we will offer to sponsor another student in the area, in the expectation that he/she will visit the club and report on the experience. Moved by David K, seconded by David M, approved unanimously.

Alan mentioned an interesting hike in the Pakenham area, and will remind members about it next year.

Mike reported on the compost program. More than 1,750 bags have now been sold, with about 250 to go. Total expenses are about \$4,500 for compost, bags and sundries, Donations of \$1,000 are committed to each of the two soccer teams, **and may be paid out of the Bingo account.** Gross revenue is already about \$10,000, and may reach about \$12,000, giving an increase in the general account between \$5,500 and \$7,500.

Mike distributed posters that may be put up by members in places such as near (but not on) communal mailboxes. David K will take a truck with bags of compost to the Farmer's Market on Saturday. Mike will coordinate members who will sell compost from the site on Saturday. Every bag sold now earns the club \$6, so go for it!

The CPHS will hold its graduation ceremony in June. We approved the usual bursaries of

\$250; moved by Gordon, seconded by Bernie and approved unanimously.

Arthur is making progress with setting up a Bingo. We may be able to rent the equipment from the Civitans, and use the CP Arena. He has a meeting with them this week, and if successful, will start on the process of filling forms to obtain the license.

Tom Affleck, the founder of SchoolBox, then gave an interesting talk on the project. Their goal is to facilitate education for children in Nicaragua, who need very basic supplies such as notebooks and pencils to get started. They have had great success with getting aboriginal people from Canada to go down there and assist with the programs, and their experience has had a huge benefit to their own communities when they return home. This is known as the AYES program (Aboriginal Youth Empowering Students). They have built schools and a library, the latter stocked with books from the Almonte area.

The hope to expand their services to 5,000 children, increase the number of schools from 21 to 26, and work in three different provinces. The education packages cost \$3, and AYES scholarship costs \$500 (much of it for air fare), and schools can be built for \$15,000.

Agenda for next meeting

Club Activities