



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of July 28th, 2009

Without our two stalwart Bingo Hunters, i.e. Rotarians Arthur and Robert, but graced by a visiting Glenda Jones, the Club settled into a brief dinner and meeting prior to the evening's program. President Mike informed the Club about an upcoming opportunity to meet Rotary International President John Kenny at a meeting in Rochester, New York later in the year. Please contact Mike for details if you are interested in attending. Mike also announced that the Club Executive has decided to set a family bereavement policy of making a contribution of \$100.00 to the charity of a member's choice, in the event of a death of an immediate family member. This policy has recently been applied in the instance of Rotarian John losing a daughter, and Rotarian George losing his brother.

Rotarian Gordon reported that the donations committee has decided to give a \$500.00 contribution to the Sage Age Players theater group to support its tour to the Maritimes this Fall. Secretary George has agreed to contact Rotary Clubs in the areas where the Players will be performing, and arrange for billeting – thus defraying the costs for our local vintage thespians to spread their unique brand of entertainment and home-spun wisdom to the eager Nova Scotians.

Among the tid-bits of dinner time table talk, the assembled members (and guest) were somewhat shocked to hear that one of our highly respected members had beguiled his dear wife with an apparent wizardry at Jeopardy. Before she could insist he apply to be a contestant, he fessed up that he had watched the program in an earlier time slot through CBC TV's gracious gift of programming in the various time zones across the country. You never know...

The evening's program proved to be a stimulating presentation on the environmental, technical, and...yes... political aspects of the developing solar power contribution to our electrical energy needs – now and in the future. Jon Kieran is the project manager for the Arnprior Solar Project, a 100 acre electricity “farm” that is nearing completion between Arnprior and Almonte. With Ontario's political commitment of eliminating its use of fossil fuel power generation by 2014, it would seem to be a no-brainer that “green” resources such as solar, along with wind, biomass, tidal, and others would be strongly endorsed by our politicians and governments. Jon acknowledged, however, that the unpredictable winds of political expediency, exponential technological advancements, and scientific whims – to say nothing of the actual winds of climate change – are making his business highly challenging. Along with a variety of concerns and views expressed, Jon's presentation gave us a tantalizing glimpse into what our future energy supplies might look like.

Next Week: Presentation on the Group Study Exchange to India next year.

