



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of August 25th, 2009

Tonight's meeting started with a *splash*...thanks to Past President Marion's unfortunate placement of her full glass of red wine. President Mike soon got things back under control, though, and after a rousing rendition of "O Canada", complete with visiting male voice hitting the C above middle C, he proceeded to introduce Visiting Rotarian Grace Bell from the Stittsville Club, Rotarian John's wife Beatrice, our program speaker, Gerry Turcotte, from Almonte, and his wife, Tina.

Among the Club business items, Rotarian David reported that he has arranged to meet with the manager of the Thirsty Moose tavern and restaurant in Carleton Place to get information on a possible alternate accommodation for our Tuesday evening meetings. As of next week, the cost of our meal at the Waterside will increase to \$16.50, prompting us to take a look around at what else might be available. President Mike will be accompanying David on this fact-finding mission.

Rotarian Arthur now has half a dozen volunteers committed to working the proposed weekly bingo. A minimum of nine are required for each week, so he is looking for a few more hearty souls to get involved in this prospective major source of revenue.

Rotarian Bernie is still inviting members to get in touch with him about

volunteering at the International Convention in Montreal next June. Do give it some thought and contact Bernie if it might be a fit for you.

Rotarian Marion reported that the Town of Carleton Place has been sent a formal request for permission to serve alcohol at the Maskeraid Ball, scheduled for October 24th. Once this is granted, she will be arranging the necessary licensing and getting out the publicity for our Fall Fling.

Our program speaker, Gerry Turcotte – who is the recently appointed President of the Mississippi Mills Chamber of Commerce – proceeded to thoroughly entertain (and inform) us with a highly spirited reminder of just how easy it is to get hoodwinked into believing the world is coming to an end – unless, of course, we all band together and spend every cent we can muster on averting the latest candidate for *disaster-of-the-century award*. With global warming due to CO2 emissions being the latest follow-the-money bogey-man on the world stage, Gerry recalled the list of such scare tactics that have usurped society's attention over the past century, including things such as global warming, global cooling, the Silent Spring DDT disaster, SARS, Asian Flu, the increasing crime rate, and (sorry Mike) that infamous non-event, Y2K. It seems society almost has to get itself caught in a paroxysm of fear to keep itself going...if its not the wars and rumours of wars, it's the catastrophe and rumours of catastrophe – Armageddon has to be just around-the-corner or we just don't seem to know what to do with ourselves – unless, of course, we wake up and started thinking for ourselves...as Gerry suggests.

Next Week: To be announced.

