



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of September 22nd, 2009

With our evening graced by our guests Lorna McNabb, Rivka Waas, and Jennifer Armstrong (spices of Rotarians Gordon, Arthur, and Brian, respectively), our good friend of Rotary, 50/50 ticket seller extraordinaire, and long-term manager of Day Care services in Carleton Place, **Jacquie Leach**, hosted us in her new Day Care digs. After a summer feast of burgers and sausages, done to perfection by Rotarian Bernie, with assistance from Rotarian Bob, on the mega-size bar-b-que the Day Care has outfitted itself, Jacquie took us on a tour of the bran' spankin' new facilities.

Carleton Place is highly respected in the province for maintaining a first class day care program that is administered and subsidized by the Town. Until this year, there were four day care facilities, scattered about Carleton Place, all administered by the Town under Jacquie' management. Now they are all under one roof, with a series of small rooms – designed to keep the class sizes down to about a dozen little clients per room.

Each separate room comes equipped with small size sinks and toilets to go along with the scaled down worlds of the toddlers the Centre is geared for. Each room is themed to give it its unique identity... "ladybug", "dragonfly", "butterfly", are examples of such identity themes – with colourful wall

paintings, furniture and fixtures all playing into the friendly atmosphere of whatever theme is defining the space.

For the staff of certified Day Care providers, there is a very well appointed lounge...getting use all day as the caregivers take their breaks on a rotating basis. And then there is a compact but extremely well equipped kitchen that puts out snacks and lunches for all 150 children plus the staff on a 5-day a week basis.

The state-of-the-art facility is then topped off by a huge play-ground, filled with what looks to be the very latest in slides and climbers and every sort of apparatus a little heart could desire to run and romp and live life to the fullest...under the loving watchful eyes of Jacquie and her crew.

Jacquie was relieved to report that the brilliantly painted play-ground apparatus – all in very bright primary colours – seemed to do the trick when the raft of new young faces arrived to start the year a couple of weeks ago...with nary a tear in any one's eye as the Mom's left and the playing began.

Next Week:

We are back to the Waterside next Tuesday, the 29th, with the main item on the agenda being a report from the ad-hoc venue committee, and then a further discussion of what our needs for a reliable, viable, meeting place might be.

October 6th:

Our program will be Roger LeBlanc, the news editor of the Canadian Gazette.

October 24th MakerAid Ball

