



***Rotary Club of Carleton
Place and Mississippi Mills
Meeting of December 14, 2009***

With your travel-weary secretary George back at President Mike's left hand side, and eleven fellow Rotarians arrayed around our square table format, the meeting began with both Mike and George thanking Rotarian Bernie for his stalwart job of pinch-hitting for George, and impressing everyone with his wit-and-wisdom in the process.

Three guests graced our table, with past Rotarian Brian Turner as one of them. Needing no introduction himself, Brian did the job for our two representative from the Alwood Drug & Alcohol Treatment Centre: Executive Director Pauline Sawyer, and an-about-to-graduate Alwood resident, Jessica.

As we waited for our tasty meal selections to arrive, Mike conducted our business activities. First off was the presentation of a \$1000.00 donation from the Club to Alwood, which was received by Pauline. Mike then announced that a new youth alcohol and drug treatment facility, for the 13 to 16 year-old age group, is to be opened in Carp this coming Friday. This centre is being supported by the Rotary Clubs of Eastern Ottawa, to the tune of \$1,000,000.00 (yes, that's six zeros) over the next ten years. Rotarians Alan and George volunteered to attend the opening ceremonies on behalf of our Club.

The duo of David & David (Mc. and K. respectively) moved and seconded a

motion to accept the Club by-law changes that were prepared by President Mike and the Club Executive. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike reminded the Club that our annual election of Club Officers will be held at our next meeting. The proposed slate at present reads as follows: President: Alan, Past-President: Mike, President-elect: Robert, Treasure: David K., and Secretary: George. Nominations from the floor will be called for, and if you have aspirations to serve in an Executive capacity in the coming year, give Bernie a call to volunteer. Last chance, folks.

Following a brief run-down of Alwood and its treatment programs from Pauline, the floor was turned over to Jessica – and she *blew-us-away* with an articulate, awesome account of her past three years of descending into the depths of alcohol and drug addiction – in a futile attempt to deny the emotional pain of having a childhood of parenting-her-dysfunctional-parents capped by them separating and leaving her lost, confused, and disheartened in the extreme. In her drug-dazed state of rebellion, Jessica ricocheted from one parent's home to the other's, onto the street as a vagrant, in-and-out of C.A.S. Group Homes, and finally hit her bottom after several sexual traumas. In desperation she agreed to come to Alwood...and in four life-changing months has discovered the person she was hiding inside, and is turning her life around. An amazing story from what promises to be an amazing young woman.

Next Week is our last meeting until January 4th. Invite your partner if you wish and let's have an Xmas special evening.

