



## *Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills*

Meeting of January 25, 2010

An even dozen members enjoyed a brief, yet productive evening of fellowship and thinking-ahead. A key moment came when President-Elect Alan (note the one 'l'), found himself appointing his first committee chair – in the person of Rotarian Allan (aha...with two 'l's) – as the coordinator of the new Public Relations initiative. Rotarian Bernie volunteered to join with Allan in this venture...as we renew our efforts at publicizing who we are and what we do.

This activity has been done without a committee structure over the past couple of years, primarily by Rotarian Louise...with her dedicated involvement to all things Rotary, and her keen sense of just what the Club brings to the community.

On other items, Rotarian Gordon reported that a cheque has been sent to purchase a Shelter Box for Haiti emergency relief on behalf of the Club.

Also on the International Service front, \$250.00 has also been sent to the Winnipeg Rotary Club to assist in the building of a 4000 student school in the Jalalabad District of Northern Afghanistan. This is considered one of the safest areas of Afghanistan, and one in which Rotary has been very active over the past few years.

President Mike reminded us of our prospective new member Tom Bonhomme's invitation for us to follow the exploits of his

Group Study Exchange tour of India, on the team's blog site, <http://gseindia2010.blogspot.com>.

This week's Mississippi News in the EMC just happens to feature a full page article on Tom and the Team – great press coverage.

President Mike thanked the members for the responses to his request for ideas about increasing our membership. Included among them were suggestions about both advertizing and hosting a Rotary Information Social, as well as canvassing local business and professional people, making a point of inviting guests, and remembering to keep our meetings free of any signs of bickering as we enjoy our fellowship and share it readily. On the membership promotion drive, Louise reported that she has delivered copies of our really informative brochure to all the box-store managers.

Rotarian Robert mused out loud for a bit about the need for us to raise our local profile by engaging in a long-term community project. Rotarian Marion reminded us of one such possibility could be getting the all-abilities playground back on track, after it lying fallow for the past year or so.

**Next week's** planned program by a local investment advisor, Brian Demsey, has been postponed. Instead, unless something topical pops up before then, we can constructively use the time to discuss Robert's suggestion of choosing a major local project to focus our attention and energies on.

P.S. Rotarian George has volunteered to serve as President-Elect for the coming year, and then trade in his Secretary's pen for the President's gavel in 2011-2012.

