



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of March 8, 2010

Ten stalwart Rotarians braved the desert dryness of the Heritage Inn once more. This time to hear the unfortunate news that we will have another couple of meetings to go before the well gets filled again with its usual supply of rich lager and fine wines.

But what was lacking in lubrication was more than made up for in the witty ways of one-and-all, as the conversation flowed as freely as any tankard could hope to do.

President Mike conveyed one sobering, and very concerning note in informing us that Rotarian David Mc. has had an unfortunate medical event happen, and he is at home recuperating – hence not able to be with us tonight. The club expresses its concerns, David, and wishes you a speedy recovery and early return.

Rotarian Gordon then informed us of a concern for past-Rotarian Bob Butler who suffered a heart problem while on a vacation cruise around the tip of South America. A brief stay in a hospital in Chile seemed to provide the necessary treatment, and Bob and Bernice flew home from Chile just a couple of days before the devastating earthquake struck.

While waiting for the tasty meal offerings to arrive, President Mike led us in a round of Happy Dollars – which soon deteriorated into a side-splitting round of Bathroom Bucks as Mike, our program speaker Constable Sean, and our program chair Allan M., all recounted flagrant faux-pas in bathroom renovation sagas. The winner was the one with the longest period of his spouse having to put up with make-shift facilities while the master-of-the-house put off the inevitable of seeking professional help.

Constable Sean Trahan, of the Carleton Place detachment of the OPP, then gave us a very informative rundown of the various programs he runs in providing the community with police-based services. The inevitable theme arose of how policing, and the society needing it, have changed so dramatically since our small towns were looked after by only one or two local constables – who needed little more than a reminder that “I know your Father” to keep most recalcitrant teen-agers on the straight-and-narrow.

Not so these days, as Constable Sean filled us in on the drug awareness and the bullying programs he puts on in the schools, the bicycle and drive-wise programs aimed at road safety, the neighbourhood watch, crime-stoppers, and robbery protection programs for the general community, and such initiatives as marketing a positive profile of policing to the younger generation in primary school in an effort to re-ignite interest among young people to join the profession.

Next Week: Regular meeting at the Inn.

