



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of January 24, 2011.

President Al was not able to attend the meeting. The meeting was chaired by **President-Elect George**. Since George was chairing the meeting, **Secretary-Elect Doug** was handed the responsibility of taking minutes. The first item on the agenda was the correspondence received in the mail. The Textile Museum sent a notice regarding their upcoming annual meeting to be held later this month and their agenda for that meeting.

Treasurer Robert then made his financial statement, including, that there was \$2200 allocated for use by the Club in supporting local initiatives. At that time, **Rotarian Gordon** brought up that the Town of Mississippi Mills had forwarded \$500 for the maintenance of the trail. He further stated that the trail would require extra work this spring as the grass had started to grow in over the trail. He also spoke about two other Public Service Announcements that he had received; 1) that local doctor's were dropping patients off of their roles if they continued to go to the new walk-in clinic because the Provincially run LIHN's were clawing-back funds previously received to cover the visits to the clinic. 2) The local Alzheimer's Society was holding a series of Open Forums around issues related to this insidious form of dementia.

Rotarian Gordon was then asked for any updates on items from the Donation Committee. He had four items to

discuss. The Lanark Therapeutic Riding Association was asking for funding. A poll of the Club decided not to fund this group. Next was the Lanark Textile Museum had submitted a request for the Club to renew its' membership. The various membership options were discussed around the table. A motion was then put forward to pay \$100 to the Museum to re-join at the Corporate level. The motion was voted upon, with the measure passing. There was one negative vote. The Mississippi Mills Beautification Committee requested financial support from the Club. This was turned down by the members. Gordon then brought forward a request for assistance from the Lanark Historical Society's Museum in the building of a wheel-chair ramp to their entrance. The request was given over to **George** to contact the Museum for additional details on their requirements for the ramp. The last request for support item from **Gordon** was the Mississippi Mills Amateur Radio Club so that they could build a digital system as part of the Lanark County's Emergency Preparedness Plan. The request mentioned that they had also applied to New Horizons for funding. This item was also forwarded to **George** to ascertain whether the Radio Club had actually received funds from their other source or not.

Lastly, the floor was turned over to **Treasurer Robert** to discuss the final version of the PR Committee's Report. Since there had been some discussion around this topic at a previous meeting, members were asked if they had any comments about the report. Suggestions were put forward by **Rotarians Brian**

and **Gordon** to prepare and distribute PR pamphlets targeted at the residents of the new housing areas in Carleton Place, with a focus on retirees as it was their opinion that people who worked and commuted to Ottawa every day would not be likely candidates for membership. From this, it was decided that the number one objective of the Club going forward was to grow membership, with a target of between 20 and 25 members. **Gordon** further opined that should any advertising be done in the local newspapers that the EMC should be the focus. He also said that he felt that of the six recommendations put forward in the PR Report, that items 3,4 and 5 were of the highest priority. **Rotarian Jim** then put forward that in order for these processes to be followed through on, that first the PR Report had to be accepted in principle by the Club and Action Plan initiated. A motion was put forward to this effect and was duly passed. **Jim** then spoke again saying that the next step would be for the PR Committee to be accepted as a functional body by the Club. As a further condition, this committee would go forward with the same four members and that they would have a 3 year mandate. Another motion was put forward and this too was passed by the Club. At that point, **Jim** was asked about a dead-line for the Action Plan to be completed. **Gordon** then interjected that the compost sale was upcoming in the very near future and that this project should therefore be the focus for the Club. The target date for the compost sale is early April. The point was then made that the Action Plan should be presented before the compost sale takes place as a test of the process. **Jim** then said that the Action Plan should then be presented by the end of

March. This was put before the Club and voted on successfully.

Rotarian Gerry then made a comment about how he felt dis-connected from the Club as a whole even though he had been attending for a number of months. He further said that when new members are inducted that each member should then give a brief statement about themselves in order to allow the new member to get better acquainted with the membership as a whole. This idea was also accepted by the Club as a whole.

Rotarian Brian then commented that he felt that the new members that had joined the Club since the summer had breathed new life into the Club and that we should try to find others like them. He then asked **Rotarians Doug, Arthur** and **Jim** how they came to be members of the Club and whether they felt comfortable in the Club. After they gave their stories, **Brian** then continued in by saying that based upon these stories that pursuit of new members would probably garner better results through social networking and that quite likely "Friends of Rotary" and past members would be a good initiative.

Rotarian George then took the dais to remind everybody that next week our guest speaker was going to be Mayor Wendy LeBlanc and that we should all try to get our spouses involved for that meeting.