



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of February 14th, 2011.

It was with a note of deep sadness that this week's meeting got underway. President Al reported that our Club's founding member, Rotarian David McGlade had passed away two days ago. David had been in the Carleton Place Hospital for the past month, struggling with a chronic illness. After a minute's silence, Al opened the floor to remembrances of David's years of very active involvement and leadership in all things Rotary in Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills. Emotional tributes to David as both a Rotarian and a friend were made by members who had known him over the years as well as newcomers who only recently been exposed to his elfish grin and infectious enthusiasm for Rotary. David will be very-much missed as a cornerstone of our Club. He will not be forgotten by those of us who've been in the Club for several years now, and his influence will be with us long into the future.

Treasurer Robert gave us a power-point overview of the long list of donations made over the Club's eight year history to charitable groups in both Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills. In fact, about 2/3rds of our donations have gone to Mississippi Mills – a note that reminds us of just how important it is that we bolster our once strong contingent of MM'ers. At Present, Al and Brian are the only MM stalwarts, compared to as many as eight just five

years ago.

Robert's presentation segued quite nicely into Rotarian Doug filling us in on preparations for next week's Volunteer Fair in Mississippi Mills. Doug will be armed with Robert's updated funding statistics, and a revised brochure produced by Rotarian Mike, as well as his engaging enthusiasm. He will be aided in his promotional endeavours by Robert and part-time by Al, and maybe other members who can make it out to the Almonte Old Town Hall on Wednesday the 23rd around 6:00 pm.

Brian Turner, our former member and #1 friend of Rotary, then gave us an eye-opening account of the scope of the problem of alcohol, drug, and suicide problems among the youth of Lanark County. Brian's Community Concerns Committee has been very active in the past year getting updated statistics on the scope of the problem while providing very well received speaking engagements to promote the open communication initiative that is growing in the wake of the spate of well-publicized teen-age suicides both locally and in Ottawa. A startling statistic is that 80% of teen-age suicides are related to mental health and addiction issues. The Committee Brian chairs is devoted to raising community awareness about this crucial issue, and ensuring that relevant resources are available to handle it.

Next Week: Regular meeting at the Thirsty Moose. No formal program planned at present.