



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of May 30th, 2011

President Al was back in the Chair, fresh from a holiday visit to his old stompin' grounds in Eastern British Columbia. Along with 11 of our members, we had two visiting Rotarians, (Jerrod Hollinger from Aspen Colorado, and Mike Thompson from Franklin Mississippi), and our Program Presenter, Bob Bray (who assured us he had no affiliation with any Canadian political party).

Club Business:

Rotarian Mike gave a final report on the very successful annual Compost Fund Raiser. Almost all of the 2300 bags were sold, with a Couple of dozen left-over's being donated to the Community Gardens in Mississippi Mills.

The net revenue from the project was \$5,300.00, which over-and-above the \$2,000.00 donations made to the two High School soccer teams that supplied the bagging muscle.

Rotarian Marion updated the current status of the All Abilities Playground project with news that the Town of Carleton Place is considering capital funding towards the playground construction, and allocating other monies for ongoing maintenance. Also, the Town is considering doing the construction in two stages, which would allow for more time for fund raising. Rotarian Bernie reported that Rotary District 7040 has no more funds available for District Simplified Grants in 2011, but is now receiving applications for 2012. Grants up to \$1500.00 are available, with a minimum expenditure of \$2500.00 by the Club making the Grant request.

Bernie also reported that he may be proposing an International Project of supporting a water well initiative. He is also waiting for an update on the Guatemala Seed Project, from the Perth Club.

A GSE (Group Study Exchange) team from Brazil will be touring the Ottawa area in late October. Bernie is suggesting that our Club consider hosting the team for a couple of days as part of the tour.

Rotarian Gordon (via an email to President Al) reported that the Rotary Trail was successfully groomed for the Spring, due to the yeoman service of Rotarian Jim.

Program:

With memories of the great ice storm of 1998 fading, there are plenty of disasters filling our daily news to remind us not to grow complacent – even in the traditionally safe haven of place like Lanark County. Bob Bray, a retired local resident, has decided to take an active role in organizing the Red Cross emergency response mechanisms here in Lanark County. Bob, along with his wife, are in the midst of arranging memoranda of understanding with the local municipalities, and with the County, to partner in the provision of information centres, short-term lodging, food, clothing and transportation in the case of emergency situations of all kinds. Under the direction of the Ottawa Branch of the Red Cross, Bob is also building a network of local volunteer Personal Disaster Assistants, to serve as first responders to any crises, large or small.

Next week:

Regular Meeting at the Thirsty Moose. This will be a Club business meeting.