



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

**Meeting of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

All members except Gordon and Gerry were present for this night's meeting. The meeting was opened by President George who asked Secretary Doug if there was any correspondence. Doug responded that he only had a letter from the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum which contained their quarterly newsletter. This was then passed around the Club for members to view.

George then read an e-mail from Gordon in regard to some requests submitted to the Club for requests for funds to the respective groups. The main request Gordon wanted to focus on was Almonte District High School's request for Bursary support. George then opened the floor to discussion around this matter.

The first point made by Rotarian Brian was that he felt that we should sever all such bursary support to the high schools. As a counter-point, Rotarian Al said that a large part of our funds from the compost sale and from the rose sales come people who reside in the Almonte area, despite our Club not having any members who live there. Secretary Doug then stated that within the new objectives for Club activity as put forward by RI, education is one of the six supported activities.

The question of our current bank balance then came up. Treasurer David then said that his reckoning of the accounts was a balance of roughly \$5500. He also re-affirmed his stance against all activity in Almonte. Rotarian Mike then spoke on this matter. He said that based

upon his partial analysis of the revenues and expenditures from the recent compost sale, the Club was able to garner about \$8000, which would put the Club's balance closer to \$13,000.

Incoming President Robert then spoke about how the executive had decided that the Club should make a budget for all expenditures going forward and then only those groups deemed to meet the Club's goals would then receive support.

George then asked that a motion be put forward on this matter. Doug then put forward a motion stating, that we resolve to not forward any funds to groups until the Club has finalized its' budget and that once passed, we will only support the groups that meet those defined in this document. Rotarian Brian then seconded the motion. George then asked for a show of hands on the motion. There were two who voted against the motion, all others supported the motion and it passed.

George then asked Doug to draft a letter to be sent to Almonte High School explaining our current position on this matter.

The next matter on the agenda was the race track social event on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Since the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> will not take place due to Victoria Day, Robert then suggested that RI's position on attendance has now become one whereby one's attendance is based upon participation in events and not necessarily on being at every meeting. Based upon this interpretation, it was decided that the race track social would count as a meeting to replace the meeting on the Monday following.

Rotarian Bernie then spoke about the PR Committee's Questionnaire on members feelings about the operation of the Club. One of his high-lights was that two members felt that the Club was for those of whom were socio-economic elites. Robert then spoke on this, saying that studies done by RI, globally, suggest that the perception by the public at

large is that Rotary is “an old-boys” group and that one has to be a business elite in order to become a member and therefore, we as a Club should be aware of this perception and be sensitive to the issue at large.

The idea of member retention was then brought to the floor. George and Robert then spoke about recent conversations with Jim Moran about his decision to leave Rotary but be a Friend of Rotary. Bernie then made a suggestion in regard to this. He said that we should have an induction ceremony for those deemed as being Friends at the July changeover meeting, with a full ceremony created for this event and a plaque given to those who want to remain as Friends.

Doug then asked Rotarian Marion where the Club and the Town are with the playground as this would be a great opportunity to bring Rotary’s local support into the spotlight. Marion then said that once the event has been formalized, we should also invite the local MP, MPP and other such dignitaries. It was then decided that Marion and Doug would work together in order to further the publicity of this event and coordination of the opening ceremony.

Rotarian Mike then gave Doug a number of Rotary pins that he had received in the past for attendance and for his various roles within the Club. These were noted by Doug and then passed over to Sargeant-at-Arms Arthur for adding to the items stored in our cupboard at the back of the meeting hall.

George then asked for any further things which members wished to speak upon. Robert said that he had been in discussion within another local service club in regard to coordinating fund raising activities within the community.

David then spoke about the stones being laid in the new Market Square by the Town. The general consensus among members present was that we had agreed to go forward with the purchase of a stone at this location. George

then asked David to follow through and to purchase a stone on behalf of the Club.