



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of January 7, 2013

This was the first meeting of 2013 with Rotarians Brian absent. We had two guests this evening; Assistant District Governor David Batchelor and his guest Keith Walker from the Guatemala Stove Project. As usual, President Robert opened the meeting by asking Secretary Doug if he had any recent correspondence.

Doug said that over the Holidays, he had received an e-mail from a woman named Judith Gilchrist who wanted to transfer into our Club from the Renfrew Club as she had recently moved. Subsequent to that, she had sent another e-mail to say that she could not attend this week's meeting due to a business commitment, but would make every effort to attend next week's session.

Doug also received a letter of thanks from the PR representative at the C. P. Hospital. She personally thanked us for our donation of \$2000 to the Building Fund and that she was looking forward to next year's Rose Sale. She also sent a taxable receipt to us, which was forwarded to Treasurer Mike.

President Robert then passed around a page he had cut out of the January 3rd edition of the C. P. Canadian / Gazette which showed a picture of the cheque being presented to members of the Hospital's Board by Robert at Brush Strokes.

Robert then moved on to the matter of

present donation requests and our Club's support of those requests.

Rotarian Gordon then presented 3 letters which had recently come to his attention for donation requests. They were from the Mississippi Mills Library, St. Luke's Catholic School in Smith's Falls and membership with the Mississippi Mills Textile Museum. Before any discussion was to take place on these matters, Gordon asked Rotarian Bernie to comment on them as well. Initially, both Bernie and Gordon had suggested that a donation to the Library and Textile Museum membership were both warranted. At that point the floor was opened up to general discussion by all present.

It was first agreed that support of the Library in C. P. would also be warranted if we supported the one in Mississippi Mills. At that point, Bernie stated that he and Mike were both members of the C. P. Library's Board and that its' finances were well in order and therefore would negate a donation. Based upon this new information a motion was presented by Gordon.

He moved that the Club should not support donations to St. Luke's nor the Library, but should renew its' membership with the Textile Museum. This was seconded by Bernie. Robert then asked for a vote on the motion. All present except Al who abstained, voted to support the motion. The motion was then passed.

Doug was then asked by Gordon to write letters to the groups who we turned down and also to prepare the renewal form for the Textile Museum.

Doug then asked to speak about the calendars in order to make a partial reconciliation on the status of that project.

He first asked if there were any additional stubs and funds to be turned in. Robert was the only person who did so. An additional \$240 was turned in and there were a total of 21 stubs which Doug was to forward to the Ottawa West Club with a cheque for the balance owing based upon our sales of the calendars. Mike calculated that we owed Ottawa West \$400 based upon on his tally of calendars sold by our Club. Tentatively, this would result in a net of approximately \$860 to our Club from the proceeds of the calendar sales. The final amount will be tabulated between Mike and Doug.

Robert then asked ADG David to introduce the night's guest speaker, Keith Walker. Keith had travelled to Guatemala recently to check on the status of the stove project he was directly involved in as well as some side projects that the District and our Club had directly been involved in as well.

Keith started off the night by informing us of how damaging wood fires were to both humans and the planet as a whole. In the case of the Mayans in Guatemala, the smoke from indoor fires was particularly harmful because these fires were built inside one room adobe cabins without any ventilation. Once the stoves were introduced, it is estimated that pollution and culling of the local forests all dropped by 50%.

Keith also talked about how the Mayan population of 8 million had been forced by the dominant tribe in Guatemala to live in an area of 6% of the entire land available in the country. Guatemala in whole is only about the size of New Brunswick. The region where the aid was provided is very mountainous with very sparse vegetation due to the volcanic nature of the hill-side soil.

Keith had many pictures of the water system

installed as a result of support from the District as well as the goats that had been provided by the most recent initiative in this region. The goats had not started to lactate as yet because a male had not been introduced into the herd. He said that the village had planned to do so very soon and that they would then start to milk the goats and to also make cheese.