



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of March 4, 2013

Tonight we had five special guests for our meeting. Firstly were Denise and Nicole Wray. Nicole is the high school student our Club is sponsoring for a three month exchange and Dense is her mother. We also had in attendance two representatives from the District who are involved in the student exchange program, they are Sherri Agnew and her assistant, Sue Kolar. Sherri brought along her own special guest. This was Arada Limsirichai, who herself is an exchange student from Thailand who is being sponsored for the year by the Kingston Club.

We had ten of our regular members present with Rotarians Al and Brian absent. President Robert started the meeting off in the usual manner by asking Secretary Doug to report on any correspondence received. The first item was a receipt from the Upper Canada District School Board for the \$300 bursary we provided to graduating Grade 12 students earlier in the year. Next was a letter from the Mississippi Textile Museum who had rejected our request to join the Museum's membership using the Family charge of \$40 and instead suggested that as a not-for-profit organization the \$100 corporate membership would be the appropriate membership level. Both items were forwarded to Treasurer Mike to be dealt with.

Lastly were two event promotions from the

Textile Museum for upcoming events. The first was for a vernisage entitled "Rare Reflections" to be held on Saturday, March 23rd between 2 and 4 P.M. The second was for another vernisage to be held on Saturday April 6th, between 2 and 4 P.M.. This exposition is titled, "150 Years of Canadian Weddings" and will focus on wedding traditions from 1860 until the present.

Robert then asked Mike to give a brief report on the Mushroom Compost sale. Mike's main concern was the availability of enough trucks and trailers. He was looking for six confirmed reports of availability, but not had sufficient assurances as yet. He was also considering whether we should raise the price of the bags of compost from \$6 to \$7.

Robert then asked Rotarians Bernie and Faye to give a short report on their recent trip to Cornwall to take part in the International Service Meeting held in Cornwall. Bernie said that the primary focus of the meeting was on the planning for the Future Vision Grants that would be used for any upcoming international support initiatives. He further said that he would be able to provide a better report next week.

Robert then asked if there were any other matters that members wanted to be addressed at the meeting. Rotarian Gordon then said that the recent requests put forward to support an education program in India and the Therapeutic Riding program were both turned down. However, he had forgot to bring in the original letters for Secretary Doug to respond to on behalf of the Club.

Robert then asked our exchange student to speak to the Club about her experiences so far with the exchange program. She said that she had recently attended a preparation meeting in Kingston for 4 hours. At this preparation meeting District representatives

and other students who are also involved in this same program got to speak about their experiences when going to a foreign country. These would be things like different foods, customs and languages. Nicole then said that she had requested an exchange with another student from either Switzerland or the U.K., but that she had not received any confirmation as yet.

The last part of the meeting was a video presentation and discussion of the Student Exchange Program put on by Sherri. The video was taped at an event held in up-state New York and featured students sponsored by Clubs within the District who were originally from a wide variety of Clubs globally. Sherri then spoke about the various segments of the Exchange Program, its duration for each individual student, host and sponsor Clubs. She also explained the costs associated with sponsoring a student for either the short (3 month) or long (9 month) programs. The short program is geared towards our school's summer break and the long program runs the full duration of our school year. The District will co-ordinate the programs for each student and ensuring that all of the appropriate legal documents are in place prior to the exchange occurring. These would be police security checks, liability insurance and all necessary visas.

After Sherri had finished speaking, she then asked Arada to speak about her experiences during the course of her exchange here in Canada. Arada was one of the students introduced in the video that Sherri had shown. One of the first things that Arada said was that her English language skills had improved greatly in the six months that she had been here. She said that part of her schooling in Thailand was English, but it didn't really prepare her for the life here because of the differences in accents and

usages of certain words. Her English language skills were very good and she talked with only a very slight accent. She spoke very highly of her experiences with each of the three families that she has been bunking with since she came to Canada. She said that one of the most interesting experiences that she had since she came here was seeing snow falling for the first time and trying to catch a snow flake on her tongue.