



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

### **Meeting of March 18, 2013**

This evening's meeting was held in Almonte, so that we could host members from the North Lanark Historical Museum. Their contingent consisted of the Executive Directress Sarah Bennett and the members of their Board and some of their spouses. The Museum's Board members and spouses were Doreen and Ed Wilson, Sandy and Jim Lowry, Brian Tackaberry, Lorna McNabb, Jennifer Armstrong, Rich Cornell, Bernice and Bob Butler and Glenda Jones.

President Robert dispensed with the regular format of the meeting due to the large number of guests present. Following dinner, Robert asked Sarah Bennett to do a presentation. She spoke about the history of the village of Appleton from the first settlement of the Teskey family at the falls near where Appleton is today. The patriarch of the Teskey clan had land on the west side of the Mississippi River where he built a lumber mill. Subsequently, his son Joseph, built a gristmill on the opposite of the river, thereby sharing the falls.

These mills were powered by the falls until 1901 when some electric turbines were installed in the river's flow. There was sufficient electricity generated by this facility to power the mill and also provide some power to residents of the village nearby.

In 1937, the then owners of the mill

petitioned the Province to bring full electrical power to the plants. They did so. As part of the installation, they also built a dam across the Mississippi and installed their own generators, which then provided power to all of the local residents.

In 1946 the main mill was partially destroyed by fire. Fire again struck in 1950, this time, totally making the plant unusable. However, remnants of the foundation and other parts of the structure are still present today. The current owners of the mill, named Collie, used the land to build their primary residence which still stands today.

Sarah then ended her presentation by saying that the Museum will be open to the general public as of May 1<sup>st</sup> where all of their exhibits can be seen.