



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of March 11, 2014.

All members were present with the exception of President-Elect Brian. Our special guest speaker was Meriah Caswell from the Carleton Place Public Library. As there was not any mail or other correspondence to deal with, President Rob went right into the night's agenda.

Rob reminded everyone that there would not be a meeting next Monday, the 17th as this meeting was being supplanted by the Regional Meeting being held on the evening of Thursday, March 20th starting at 5:00 P.M.. Treasurer Mike said that he was in the process of compiling some materials for the purpose promoting our annual compost sale at this event.

Following this, Mike then continued on by asking the Club what the preferred date for the Compost Sale would be. The majority of the Club said that they would be available to help on the weekend of May 3rd and 4th. Mike's major concern was the lack of availability of trucks and trailers among the current membership. Several members present said that they have had offers through friends and associates to provide a truck for the purpose of making deliveries over those two, or if need be, additional days following.

Sergeant-At-Arms Judith then spoke about a recent Strategic Planning Committee meeting that was held. As a result, this

group is ready to make a presentation to the Club about their decisions going forward. She also mentioned that they will be looking to put together additional committees to plan for promotional and fund-raising events in the future.

The floor was then opened to our guest speaker, Meriah Caswell. She first reminded everyone that this month is Rotary's Literacy Month. She said that the library currently has available for lending to its 6,400 active members, roughly 64,000 items ranging from printed books to e-books to DVD's /CD's and talking books. They have three full time staff members and numerous others who work part-time or volunteer.

Meriah said that her group's largest challenge is working toward ending illiteracy among local residents. As such, they have a number of programs which they run for various age groups, all aimed at making reading more fun. They have an Early Literacy Program aimed at children who are 12 months old and younger. The emphasis is on teaching the children rhymes and songs, while allowing the children, parents / guardians the chance to socialize and learn in an engaging manner.

Another program is aimed at pre-school children and is held weekly on Thursday mornings. This program is called Weekly Story-Time.

The library is also involved in some Provincial wide initiatives whereby various school age groups are asked to read books and report on them. These reports are then compared, Provincially and the readers are entered into a contest with more entries for every book read.

She also mentioned some of the other resources and services that the library has to

offer to the public at large. One of these are copies of local newspapers and various legal records dating back to 1855. She said that members can make use of any one of the number of Internet connected computers on site to access ancestral records through the Ancestry.ca web site. This service is not available to members who connect to the library from home.

Meriah also said that they are affiliated with the Federal Agency that oversees the numerous museums in the National Capital Region. She said that the library can make available to members, passes for up to five people for all of these museums. People can also come into the library to make use of their extensive reference resources, such as the Canadian Subsidy Directory.

The library has applied to the Province for a grant through which they hope to be able introduce a Literacy Tutors Program. Decisions on these grants will not be made until 2015.