



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

Meeting of April 14th, 2014

Nine members were present this evening. We welcomed three guests; Joellen McHard, Executive Director of the Lanark Restorative Justice Committee, Keith Pinkney, a retired OPP officer, and Brian Peters.

The compost customers are being called by members to advise them that we have had to cancel the sale this year, due to a lack of trucks. We expect to re-instate it next year. Some customers were quite disappointed.

Mike distributed a draft schedule of meetings, as shown under "Speakers" on the web site. It should not be regarded as final yet, and of course can always be modified if needed.

We will schedule the highway cleanup in May.

Joellen and Brian gave an interesting account of the Restorative Justice work being done in the county. Basically, young people committing minor offences are offered an opportunity to avoid the formal justice system, and to work with the victims to try to undo the damage. They have a limited budget, and rely on volunteers. Cases are referred to them by the police of the justice department. Young offenders often benefit by the process, as they get to make amends, and avoid having a criminal record. They find face-to-face meetings with their victims quite difficult. There is much less recidivism as compared with the formal justice system. The committee does not handle domestic or sexual abuse cases, but they do handle relatively serious

assaults when it seems beneficial.

There will be no meeting next week (April 21st), as it is Easter Monday. Judith will introduce David Thompson as a guest on the 28th, and he will present a fund-raising opportunity.