



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of June 16th, 2014

Eight members met at Slackoni's, and welcomed Pam Harris, the manager of the Mississippi Mills library.

Faye announced there will be a walk at the Town Labyrinth on June 19th, and that she will be a speaker at 5:30pm. Members are encouraged to attend.

We will meet at the Thruway Restaurant for breakfast at 9:00 am on Saturday June 21st, and then clean up the Trail. Robert will rent a bush-hog, and other members will whack weeds, pick up garbage and so on. Please bring rakes and other useful tools. It would be helpful if someone could bring a lawnmower to do parts that the bush-hog leaves standing. Mike will bring a weed-whacker, and the grabbers that were bought for the highway cleanup.

Pam suggested we put a map of the Trail on the club web site.

Pam then spoke about the Mississippi Library. She focused on popular misconceptions about public libraries; they are not a place of peace and quiet where the librarians spend all their time reading books. Librarians are usually well-read and have a broad reach of knowledge, but do not have time to read in the library. She had one or two hair-raising tales about mis-uses of libraries, and said that they were not always as safe as one might like.

They are not a place to leave children, and librarians are not baby-sitters. She mentioned the Human Library project that was run jointly by several libraries in Lanark County, and said the program would be run again next year. The library is 90% funded by the Town out of municipal taxes, but has its own board and is technically independent from the town.

One of her main jobs is applying for grants. There is a lot of work in processing new books and maintaining the collection. She is sure that libraries, and books, will continue to exist for the foreseeable future, despite innovations such as the internet and Google.