



*Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills*

Meeting of 23 March 2015

**There were eight members present and Bernie had his usual make-up via an e-meeting. We were joined by our speaker Karin Nakamura of the Lanark County Food Bank and our friend and frequent visitor Cora Bekin, Area Assistant Governor and President Nominee of the Kemptville Club.**

**Brenda, standing in for our vacationing President Brian, read a note of appreciation from Rotarian Teresa thanking the Club for its recent gift and then moved the discussion direct to the upcoming compost sale. Mike will bring a draft budget for the sale to the next meeting and will e-mail each member a list of previous customers to call in early April. He will also develop a script for those calls. E-mail orders can be placed at [compost@rogers.com](mailto:compost@rogers.com). We need more volunteers for the on-site crew and while the availability of trucks and trailers seems adequate a couple more would be welcomed and useful.**

**There were no committee reports but Brenda advised that she would be attending the President-Elect training session in Cornwall during the upcoming weekend and Cora provided us with valuable information regarding the preparations needed before applying for District Grants and also suggested we invite the incoming District Governor to attend one of our meetings. She noted two District Walks coming up; one in Montreal and the other in Watertown where that Club will be celebrating its 100 anniversary on November 6 and 7.**

**We were then treated to an impressive but sobering talk by Karin Makamura on the rewards and challenges involved in managing the Lanark County Food Bank in Carleton Place. Dramatic increases in first-time applicants are being seen and 258 hampers of food went out in 19 days during February. More and more people are living close to the edge including minimum wage earners and those on inadequate social assistance. The Food Bank meets only emergency needs and restricts users to once-a-month assistance. It gets no government support, depending totally on individual and corporate donations of food and money. Its campaign in May of this year will hopefully get it through the donation doldrums of the summer during which it expects to provide some 25,000 meals. Karin's talk was greatly appreciated by those present and it is clear that the food bank is a very worthy recipient of past and future club support.**