



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

### **Meeting of March 30, 2015**

There were eight members present for what became a critical meeting for the future of the club. Brenda reported on her attendance at the PETS conference in Cornwall and the “District Youth Protection Policy” presented as a fait accompli at that time. Given the ramifications of this policy for all clubs, but especially for small clubs, the fact that only six clubs in our district were consulted during its preparation was felt to be totally inadequate. Our Club is expected to provide the District with a completed “Certification Check List” and documentation of our acceptance of the policy by no later than July 1, 2015. Lacking such documentation will mean the invalidation of our Club’s insurance coverage.

Following review of the documentation e-mailed prior to the meeting by Brenda, members in attendance concluded that adherence to the new policy by members and by Friends of Rotary and other volunteers, would be very onerous and would make it difficult if not impossible to attract volunteers to participate in activities like our compost sale where local soccer teams are involved. Of the five requirements involved in the policy ( 1. a two-page application form, 2.”sexual and harassment training”, 3. background checks, 4. reference checks and 5. a personal interview) we could only give qualified approval of items 2 and 3. Even if we had accepted all of the requirements there was opposition to having personal information of the type required stored in a foreign country (the United States). Even given the best of intentions regarding the protection of such information laws such as the United States Patriot Act override such intentions. It was the feeling of all members present that such personal information should not leave Canada even if we were to agree to the policy.

Brenda is expected to provide a response to the District by April 18. She will draft a response reflecting the conclusions of our discussion and provide a draft to members for consideration. **Members who were not at the March 30 meeting are urged to read the material provided by Brenda via e-mail prior to that meeting.**

- **There will be no meeting on Easter Monday, April 6.**
- **The meeting on April 13 will be our Induction Meeting and our District Governor Elect will be present. This is a social event and members are urged to bring spouses, partners and friends interested in Rotary.**
- **Members were provided with call lists for compost orders. Please mark any order where delivery is requested with a large “D”.**